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THE
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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1880.

MR. GLADSTONE AND NONCONFORMISTS.

NOT for the first, nor even the second time, Mr. GLADSTONE has pronounced a generous eulogy on the zeal and consistency of Nonconformists. At the meeting held in St. Pancras on Friday night, in support of the two Liberal candidates for Marylebone, the right hon. gentleman, in referring to the importance of a united Liberal policy, thus expressed himself:—

These sectional opinions which every man is putting forward are fatal to the general issue. There is a noble example, however, to the contrary in the largest section of the Liberal Party—the Nonconformists. If there is any section of the Liberal party which is entitled to urge and to force its own peculiar opinions, irrespective of times and circumstances, that section is the Nonconformists. What is their peculiar opinion? Their special and distinctive opinion relates to Disestablishment. They have in their own minds and consciences, not merely a political idea, but a religious conviction on that question. And yet what is their conduct? What an example, what a model are they placing before us! They are putting their own views into the shade in order that they may not interfere with the success of the cause in which their particular idea is included and absorbed.

Again, in the latter part of his speech, Mr. GLADSTONE, alluding to the "distinct avowal" of "the master spirit" of the present Government, that we ought to have used military means to resist the Russian invasion of Turkey, said that this design was frustrated by the Liberal party. "It is, I think, an indisputable fact in history," the right hon. gentleman went on to remark, "that that action of the Liberals, which I am bound in honour as a member of the Church of England to acknowledge, was not entirely, but mainly, the action of the Nonconformist Liberals. That action prevented an act which would have involved the country in an amount of folly and guilt, perhaps greater than ever rested on any decision taken by any public body."

We think there is ample excuse for giving all prominence to such a spontaneous tribute of approval from the great Liberal statesman and orator of the day. But we quote his words in no spirit of self-complacency, nor can it be complained, after the language recently used by Mr. BRIGHT and other Liberal leaders, as well as by Mr. GLADSTONE himself, that the position of Nonconformists as a section of that party is unappreciated. Our opponents, are, however, mistaken if they suppose we belong to what is called a "Mutual Admiration Society." Life is too short to be wasted in strutting about to gather up chance eulogies to minister to sectarian vanity. But if it be, as we believe, a good sign of the times that the influence of Nonconformists in the political world is felt and recognised, it is not because of any claims they advance to a monopoly of patriotism or of spiritual activity. This, however, we may say—that the principles they hold dear derive their vitality from these two facts—first, that they are the principles of justice, and, next, because they are capable of universal application. Besides being good for themselves, they are good for all the world. And this, indeed, is the secret of their moral strength, and of the zeal and energy shown in promoting them. This true and generous appreciation of the motives of Nonconformists—which, as compared with the state of things a generation ago, marks a complete revolution of feeling in the world without them—while viewed with satisfaction and gratitude, imposes new responsibilities. If Nonconformists do not yet reach Mr. GLADSTONE's lofty ideal, they can strive to do so. Accepting his testimony, they are privileged to wield a political force in the Commonwealth which has tended, and will tend, to the purification of public opinion, the elevation of their countrymen, and the advancement of the general welfare. And this view ought in all reason not only to encourage those who appreciate their responsibilities, but should inspire the timid and arouse the vacillating amongst us.

As Mr. GLADSTONE says, Nonconformists—whom, it is to be noted, he designates as the largest section of the Liberal party—"are putting their own views into the shade in order that they may not interfere with the success of the cause in which their particular idea is included and absorbed." Their abnegation in this matter is freely and generously acknowledged. And it is admitted that this withdrawal into the shade is only temporary. With characteristic frankness Mr. GLADSTONE allows that Disestablishment is, at least, an open question in the Liberal party. "Their particular idea" is included in the general programme to be considered in the future. Now, we have not the least desire to find in such language a more specific meaning than can naturally be drawn from it. The right hon. gentleman has never, so far as

we know, expressed himself as personally favourable to the separation of Church and State in England, though he may be said to be substantially prepared for Disestablishment in Scotland whenever the Scotch people clearly demand it. But he does appear to recognise the fact that by now putting in the background "these special and distinctive opinions" for the sake of the Liberal cause in general, the Free Churchmen of England are establishing a claim to more consideration in the future than they have ever yet received. And we doubt not that, in due time, that claim will be admitted. For, apart from other matters, it is to be remembered that the State Church is by instinct and prescription a more unswerving ally of the Tory party than even the liquor interest.

At the same time it cannot be too emphatically pointed out that religious equality is, for the time being, rather an out-door than a Parliamentary question—a consummation to be brought about, not so much by extorting premature pledges from responsible statesmen as by convincing the public at large of its equity and advantage. What Mr. GLADSTONE told Mr. MIALl in the last debate on the subject eight years ago is equally applicable now—"You must convert the nation if you want Disestablishment." How much more encouraging our prospects now are is patent to every observer. But in that great enterprise there ought to be no faltering. While Nonconformists have no intention of dividing the Liberal party by making Disestablishment a test question at the coming election, there is the more reason why they should avail themselves of all suitable means to indoctrinate the nation with these principles, and help to ripen public feeling in their favour. For this object there is no such agency as the Triennial Conferences of the Liberation Society. An early dissolution would necessarily involve the postponement of this year's assembly. But, according to present appearances, the long-expected general election is receding into the distance—the autumn of this year, if not later. As a Tory cry with which to go to the country "Obstruction" bids fair to fail egregiously, and the Government will probably prefer to drag through the present Session, with the chance of carrying their principal measures, rather than have recourse to a sudden dissolution. We think therefore the Committee of the Liberation Society are wise in deciding not to depart from their prescribed course, and in continuing their preparations for a Conference early in May.* Such an assembly will serve to convince the world in general, and political parties in particular, that if Disestablishment is not to be a foremost topic at the general election, it is not because Nonconformists attach less importance to it, or are prepared to see it ignored. If the general election should be deferred till the end of the year, the issue may turn less on questions of foreign than of domestic policy, and there may then be greater need than now of giving prominence to that of ecclesiastical reform, if only to stimulate the zeal of Dissenters in support of "civil and religious liberty," which has never ceased to be an article in the Liberal creed. But whether the election comes sooner or later, the banner of religious equality should be held aloft, even if we are not at present prepared to carry it into the thick of the conflict. To forego so rare an opportunity of ventilating our principles and winning over the public mind to our cause, would be, in our view, a grave mistake. And Englishmen would be all the more inclined to listen to the special claims of Nonconformists, because they have forborne to embarrass the Liberal party as a whole. In the one case, as in the other, we should be setting that "noble example" of which Mr. GLADSTONE speaks. This obligation on the part of Nonconformists seems to be clear, not only because they are "the largest section of the Liberal party," but as a section of the community which holds convictions and advocates measures, the realisation of which will, they conscientiously believe, incalculably benefit the entire nation.

* We find the following on the subject in the March number of the *Liberator*:—"In accordance with the constitution of the society, the twelfth Triennial Conference will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 4th and 5th of May next, at the Cannon-street Hotel, London; and on the evening of Wednesday the usual public meeting will be held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. These arrangements have been made on the understanding that a dissolution of Parliament is not previously announced; in which case it will of course be necessary to postpone the Conference until the general election is over. But supposing that nothing occurs to prevent the holding of the Conference at the usual time, it is of great importance that it should be as large, as enthusiastic, and as practically useful as possible. These gatherings are always of great value in stimulating the society's friends and giving a new impulse to the movement; and, just now, when it is obviously the wish of some politicians that the public mind should be occupied solely with foreign questions, and especially that the Disestablishment question should be kept out of sight, it is doubly important that the friends of religious equality should acquire whatever additional strength a Conference is capable of imparting. We hope our friends will not think it too early to begin making arrangements for the appointment of delegates."

WASTED RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

THE statistical volumes issued during the last four years, which furnish with such fulness of detail a survey of the religious accommodation provided in the counties of Derbyshire, Kent, and Nottingham, draw attention to some consequences of the course of procedure hitherto pursued, which may well challenge the thoughtful consideration of members of the various denominations of Free Churches. Mr. HORACE MANN, in the Census report of 1851, pointed out the fallacy which might be involved in a comparison of the total number of sittings provided throughout the kingdom with the total number of persons for whom provision has to be made. He reminded his readers of a fact—which recent School Board controversies show is at times liable to be overlooked—that suitability of location is an indispensable element in the estimate. Thus, in 1851, while the aggregate amount of sittings was adequate for 58 per cent. of the population, less 185,450, the real deficiency was for more than one and a-half million, the excess in certain districts being counterbalanced by an inadequate supply in other parts of the country. The redundancy, as a rule, was then found to be among the old and rural population; the need being chiefly perceptible in the new and town populations. In Derbyshire, it now transpires that, whereas there is in the county town a deficiency of about 8,800 sittings—a deficiency which other districts increase to above 20,000—there are at the same time more than double that number of sittings so located as to be useless for their intended purpose. Chesterfield, for example, needs 3,400 more sittings, and Carburton and Ashover each about 1,100, while Bakewell has an excess of 5,300 sittings, Alfreton of 2,200, and Dronfield of 1,400. In Kent, certain parishes have 28,715 sittings in excess of their wants, while there is a deficiency throughout the entire county to the amount of 123,500. This deficiency is chiefly met with in the urban districts. In Nottinghamshire there are, along with local deficiencies to the extent of 34,000, local excesses to the extent of 33,200; so that if the existing sittings had been located where they are required, the deficiency would have only amounted to 800, for which new sittings now in course of provision would have sufficed. At present, the borough of Nottingham, into which nearly half the population of the county is crowded, needs at least 20,000 more sittings, while the surplus sittings in the rural districts amount to more than 30,000, or one out of every three on the provision actually made; these being totally wasted in consequence of the absence of possible worshippers.

These three counties, the religious accommodation of which has been thus critically analysed, unitedly constitute, both as regards acreage and population, about one-fourteenth portion of England. The total deficiency in these counties is 182,609, in reduction of which no credit can be taken for 112,244 wasted sittings. If similar proportions prevail throughout the whole of England the result of the calculation would indicate a deficiency of 2,556,526 accessible sittings, contemporaneously with 1,571,416 useless sittings—equivalent to the erection and maintenance of 5,238 places of worship, each capable of containing 300 persons, in positions where, so far as the numerical wants of the population are concerned, there is no one to occupy them. Reckoned at £5 per sitting, that would mean a sum of nearly eight millions sterling of capital uselessly expended, at the time when there is urgent need for a further outlay of thirteen millions sterling to supply the spiritual needs of the population. The expenditure upon each of those unnecessary places of worship of £150 yearly would absorb nearly four millions sterling per annum, while the same outlay judiciously expended would minister to the spiritual needs of between four and five million souls, for whom no adequate provision appears to have been made.

That calculation is, however, made purely from a statistician's standpoint; and there is a disturbing element which cannot wholly be ignored. In these three counties a certain share of the provision is made by Jews, Roman Catholics, Unitarians, and members of other denominations markedly at variance in their views with the Evangelical Free Churches. The total number of sittings provided by these in the three counties is set down at 25,940, which, multiplied by 14, would give 363,160, equal to 58 per cent. of a population numbering 626,136. Other parts of the country probably provide a larger proportion of the same classes, and it may be fairly estimated that, by preference, between one and two millions are associated with the denominations thus excluded from our estimate. The Established Church provides in these three counties 452,412 sittings, which, multiplied by 14, give 6,333,768, equivalent to 58 per cent. of a population numbering 10,920,289, in round terms, eleven millions. In the same three counties the Evan-

gelical Free Churches supply 412,742 sittings, which, multiplied by 14, give 5,778,388, equivalent to 58 per cent. of a population numbering 9,962,738—in round terms, ten millions.

If all the ministers of the Establishment were sound Protestants, separated only from Nonconformists by questions of Church government, a division of labour upon some such basis as this might be practicable. Unfortunately this is far from being the case, and the prospect opens before us of having, in the future, increasingly to bear our testimony against the pretensions of Sacerdotalism, while setting forth in its simplicity the Gospel of CHRIST. The existence of a State Church places an impediment in the way of a free proclamation of those good tidings throughout the length and breadth of the country. In many parishes, dominated by dense ignorance or mischievous superstition, the influence of landowners is effectually exerted to prevent the erection of a Nonconformist place of worship. Thankfully do we recognise the fact that from very many pulpits of the Establishment the Gospel is preached with a fulness and fidelity which leave nothing to be desired. To all the Episcopal clergy engaged in such a work, we wish an abundant measure of success; no difference of view on questions of polity would prompt us to take any steps to interrupt their work, or limit their usefulness. But in respect to such parishes there is this difficulty. A change of the officiating clergyman may also involve an instant change from Evangelical doctrine to the Sacerdotalism of Mr. MACDONOCHIE, and against such possibilities it devolves upon the Free Churches to make provision.

But it must be noted that the compilers of these statistics draw attention to the fact that there is a wasteful expenditure of Christian resources and Christian energy in some districts, in justification of which neither of these pleas is available, while at the same time there are portions of the Master's vineyard left altogether untended. In Derbyshire, Charlesworth, with a population of about 1,000, has besides the State Church edifice, 1,550 sittings in Independent, Baptist, Wesleyan, and Primitive Methodist places of worship. Ashbourne, with a population of 2,065, of which 58 per cent. is 1,160, has, besides the State Church and a Romanist chapel, 1,371 sittings in places of worship belonging to four different denominations of Evangelical Free Churchmen. In Alfreton, where there is a surplus of 2,231 sittings, there are 22 Nonconformist places of worship, 16 of which (with 4,157 sittings) are sustained by three sections of Methodists. Turning to the capital of Kent, where we observe there is a deficiency of 2,893 sittings in respect to the population of 1871, we ask, Is it not conceivable that greater efficiency might be secured by an arrangement among the nine different denominations of Evangelical Free Churchmen, who now supply 4,630 sittings in fifteen churches, supplementary to the 7,120 sittings supplied in ten churches belonging to the Establishment?

The sparse attendance at these multiplied places of worship has been recently made the theme of much vituperation of Nonconformity. It is a pity that the criticism which, from whatever motive, has been thus bestowed upon us should be wasted. Consolidation of effort in more powerful centres of influence is not unlikely to be the lesson which inadequate measure of success is designed to inculcate. An amicable arrangement of this sort would assist in solving more than one problem which from time to time thrusts itself upon the attention of our churches. The Presbyterian bodies in England, as Mr. GOODRIVE MABBS aptly remarks in his survey of Nottinghamshire, have already shrewdly availed themselves of this method of strengthening their position, so that in their case there cannot now be inter-competition. Has not the time arrived when our Methodist friends may devise measures with a similar salutary purpose? Were Nonconformists animated by the spirit which some of our Conformist friends are never weary of ascribing to us, we ought, as members of the Congregationalist order, to do all in our power, on the worldly *Divide et Impera* principle, to prevent closer union among different branches of the Connexional system. The process has already been commenced, as the title, "United Methodist Free Churches," testifies, and the decision to introduce into the Wesleyan Conference lay representatives, has removed out of the way the chief impediment to further progress in the work. Very kindly relations now exist among the different sections of Methodism; and though the time for corporate reunion may not have arrived, we doubt not that overtures for conference, with a view to preventing a waste of resources, would be favourably responded to on all sides. We note with much pleasure the opinion enunciated in the *General Baptist Magazine* for March upon this subject. "Baptists and Independents," the editor fears, "crowd each other and injure each other in thinly populated districts"; it is high time that, in

the interests of truth and of religious progress, there should be a pact amongst the different denominations, under which Baptists and Independents would be led into "such arrangements as to cease wasting their money and their power." We venture to believe that, in carrying out such arrangements, the Independents will fall short of no denomination in the matter of mutual concession with a view to more vigorous prosecution of the work of evangelising their fellow-countrymen.

The rapid growth of Sacerdotalism in the Establishment, and the pusillanimous attitude assumed by so many Evangelical clergymen in reference to it, indicate that the time is at hand when the whole area of England must be mapped out with a view to its occupation in the most effective manner by the Free Church organisations. The parochial system of the Church of England has already suffered a collapse. In the three counties mentioned there are more than 100 parishes in which no provision for the spiritual care of the population is made by the Established Church; into sixty-nine of these the Free Churches have already extended their operations. No doubt a corresponding state of affairs would be disclosed by inquiry in other parts of England. The work is vast enough to task to the utmost all available resources, but remembering all the way wherein we have been brought, there is no excuse for inaction through doubt or despondency. At the commencement of the present century the total number of chapels possessed by all the various Evangelical Free Churches in this country scarcely amounted to 3,000, furnishing accommodation for little more than a million of the population. In eighty years the accommodation provided has been increased tenfold, and with increased resources rightly directed there should be a mighty work accomplished in the twenty years which intervene before the close of the century. The resources at the command of Christian willingness are adequate for the enlarged enterprise to which the Free Churches are now summoned; but they furnish no justification for that haphazard squandering, prejudicial to efficiency, of which Derbyshire, Kent, and Nottinghamshire furnish illustrations. May we invite the earnest attention of our readers to a consideration of the best mode of developing those resources, and of putting an end to further unjustifiable waste?

ECCELESIASTICAL BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.

THOUGH the Bills for taking the Decennial Census next year have been brought in they have not yet been printed. We still, however, adhere to the opinion that the English Bill does not provide for taking the "religious profession" of the population. That for Scotland will also be silent on the subject, although there is said to be much division of opinion as to its expediency among the several Presbyterian Churches. It may be that the Established Kirk and the Free Church desire the enumeration to be taken differently, and that the Government have evaded the difficulty by deciding to have no religious census at all. Both Bills are down for second reading on Monday next. We think there is little doubt that, following the precedent of ten years ago, a clause providing for a census of "religious profession" will appear in the Irish Bill, and, perhaps, pass without serious opposition.

Mr. Blennerhassett's Bill for reforming the marriage laws, which has been the subject of much keen controversy in our columns, has only just been issued. As already stated, it is down for second reading on June 9th, and there is, therefore, abundance of time to analyse its actual provisions. Some curious statements as to the origin of the measure appear in another column.

We have no certain information as to the Bill, of which Mr. Plunket has given notice, for another clerical pull at the Irish Church surplus—that is, for extra compensation for sundry incumbents and curates, who are thought not to have had enough. Another Irish Bill has been introduced by Lord E. Fitzmaurice. It proposes to remove the legal disqualification that prevents the clergy of any recognised denomination from becoming poor-law guardians in that country. This disability does not obtain in England, and there seems to be no adequate reason why it should exist in Ireland. Mr. Macartney thinks otherwise, and is prepared to move the rejection of this little Bill. Mr. P. Smyth has been bold enough to bring in (but we presume does not expect to carry) a Bill repealing certain sections of the Roman Catholic Relief Act which relate to the Jesuits and to property left for superstitious uses.

There is a curious Government measure before Parliament—that is, the Upper House, for it has already passed the Lower—entitled, "The Indian Salaries and Allowances Bill," one object of which is to enable the Indian Secretary of State in Council "to reduce some of the salaries and allowances in the Ecclesiastical Establishment." It is provided that the salaries of bishops and archdeacons in the dioceses of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay may be dealt with, except such as are in office at the passing of the Act, and that nothing in the Act shall authorise the imposition of any additional charge on the revenues of India. The meaning of the Bill seems to be that future dignitaries of the Episcopal Church in India must expect smaller State salaries, and the abolition of "allowances." Some slight reductions have already been made. Neverthe-

less, we learn from the return just issued, which Mr. Baxter moved for in 1877, that the amount voted for the Ecclesiastical Establishment in India is very considerable, and the particulars are thus summarised in the *Liberator*:—"The total net cost to the Government of the Church of England Establishment in British India in 1876 was about £158,000. The number of chaplains and ministers paid and subsidised (in 1879), 201; and the number of Government servants attending church, exclusive of wives and families, 27,033. The cost of the Church of Scotland Establishment was about £12,000; the number of chaplains and ministers paid or subsidised, 21; and the number of Government servants attending its services, 3,261. The cost of the Roman Catholic Church Establishment was about £9,960; the number of chaplains and ministers paid or subsidised, 61; and the number of Government servants attending its services, 11,207. In the Viceroy's despatch it is mentioned that the total number of Christians—Europeans and Eurasians (or Indo-Europeans) of all ages and sexes in India is 179,680. We are thankful to find from this report that none but those pledged to the Establishment principle take the pay of the State. The most effective of all the East Indian Missions are carried on without it." By the new Bill referred to above the Indian Government obtain parliamentary power to make reductions, which is, we suppose, an indication that they mean to use it.

In connection with our article last week on "The Independents and the Friends in the Commonwealth Era," some remarks by the Rev. Mr. GREEN, in his celebrated and impartial "History of England," will be read with interest. After referring to the evil done to the Church of England by the expulsion on St. Bartholomew's Day of "the most learned and the most active" rectors and vicars, thus closing the effort which had been going on ever since ELIZABETH's accession to bring the English communion into harmony with the Reformed communions on the Continent, and the religious instincts of the nation at large, the writer thus proceeds:—

But if the issues of St. Bartholomew's Day have been harmful to the spiritual life of the English Church, they have been in the highest degree advantageous to the cause of religious liberty. At the restoration, religious freedom seemed again to have been lost. Only the Independents and a few despised sects, such as the Quakers, upheld the right of every man to worship God according to the bidding of his own conscience. The great bulk of the Puritan party, with the Presbyterians at its head, were at one with their opponents in desiring a uniformity of worship, if not of belief, throughout the land; and, had the two great parties in the Church held together, their weight would have been almost irresistible. Fortunately, the great severance of St. Bartholomew's Day drove out the Presbyterians from the Church to which they clung, and forced them into a general union with sects which they had hated till then almost as bitterly as the bishops themselves. A common persecution soon blended the Nonconformists into one. Persecution broke down before the numbers, the wealth, and the political weight of the new sectarians; and the Church, for the first time in its history, found itself confronted with an organised body of Dissenters without its pale. The impossibility of crushing such a body wrested from English statesmen the first legal recognition of freedom of worship in the Toleration Act; their rapid growth in later times has by degrees stripped the Church of almost all the exclusive privileges which it enjoyed as a religious body, and now threatens what remains of its official connection with the State.

The Bordesley case, now historically associated with a deplorable manifestation of weakness on the part of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, in deference to sacerdotal clamour, was again brought before Lord PENZANCE on Saturday last. It appearing that the Rev. R. W. ENBAUGHT, in disobedience to a monition from the Arches Court, was still persevering in seven illegal practices, an inhibition was at length ordered to be issued, the defendant to pay the costs, which, if at all resembling those incurred in the Miles Platting case, will probably amount to about £250. The Bishop of LICHFIELD, in a charge to the clergy of his diocese, on Tuesday, referred depreciatingly to sermons, and "deeply regretted the prevalence of evening Communion," not venturing to say that the regulation of CHRIST was "inherently wrong," but manifesting a decided desire that there should be a substitution of the Church's Breakfast for the Lord's Supper, fasting Communion being distinctly classed by him among "pious practices." After the manifestation of so palpable an estrangement from Protestant thought, there can be no wonder that he "deprecated the democratic tendencies of the age," which he foresees will in the future disestablish an institution the influence of which is directed to destroying the work which it was professedly established to promote.

LEO XIII. has recognised the fact that the people of Belgium are in no mood for submitting to episcopal dictation of the HILDEBRAND type. He has permitted the clergy tentatively to fulminate denunciations against the public schools, to assail the Constitution, and to threaten abstention from any participation in the forthcoming national independence *fêtes*. Finding, however, that the Belgians are not daunted by this attitude, the POPE has compelled the bishops to beat a retreat. These puppets of the Vatican have accordingly, it is announced, decided to take part in the *fêtes*, to permit the exhibition of the objects of art which are under their charge, and—which is much more significant—that the pupils of the public schools be admitted to communion and treated at church on the same footing as the pupils of the clerical schools, and receive the same religious instruction. This little incident conveys a useful lesson as to the proper mode of dealing with a Papal *non possumus*.

The Rev. Dr. ALLON has been nominated by the committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales to fill the office of chairman during the jubilee year. Dr. ALLON, it will be remembered, performed the duties of chairman in 1864, owing to a failure in health on the part of a ministerial brother. He is now nominated directly for the office, and although that step is not in itself decisive, we have no doubt that the selection will so commend itself to the judgment of the Union that the ratification will be cordial and unanimous. It would be hardly possible to suggest the name of any person who could be regarded as better fitted to fulfil the duties on so important an occasion.

The Roman Catholic *Tablet* is very wroth with the Liberation Society for desiring to disestablish the Church of England, and declares that any candidate who at the General Election gives the pledges which the society seeks to obtain would thereby afford "a strong presumption that he is not the candidate whom Catholics ought to support." The writer proceeds to describe the Church of England as "a serviceable bulwark" against the doctrines of Protestant Nonconformists, and agreeing with Cardinal NEWMAN that "it is doing our work, and though it does us harm in a measure, at present the balance is in our favour," announces the conclusion, "We Catholics, at all events for the present, do not desire the overthrow of the Establishment." What a satire upon those who profess still to regard the State Church as "the bulwark of Protestantism"!

This Roman Catholic champion of the Church of England is, however, more zealous than prudent, when, opposing the demand for removal of existing restrictions on the headships of colleges and fellowships, it represents this as "a purely visionary and theoretical grievance," with which Protestant Nonconformists need not concern themselves, as they would "under no conceivable circumstances have any chance of the coveted sinecures at Oxford and Cambridge; quite other qualifications, both social and intellectual, are required for such positions." Such a sneer might have been effective once, but it is pointless in a year in which the Senior Wranglership has been won by a Nonconformist, this being the twelfth time in which such a success has been achieved within the last twenty years.

Correspondence.

ELECTORAL ATTITUDE OF NONCONFORMISTS.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist and Independent*.

SIR,—Nonconformists are accustomed to be lectured for their public conduct, and, therefore, it is not surprising that, within the last few days, they have been admonished in two very different quarters.

The Rev. John Oakley, of Hoxton, who describes himself as a "life-long Liberal," first accused them, in the columns of the *Echo*, of being "politicians in a second degree, but something else in the first degree," and as being among the crotchety Liberals who desire to force the opinions of a minority upon the entire nation. Mr. Oakley may be excused, on the ground of his ignorance of the real character and acts of those whom he describes, and his assertions have met with a prompt denial.

Mr. Morley, in his speech at Union Chapel, on Tuesday last, thought it necessary to make suggestions of a cautionary kind, which implied that there was some foundation for Mr. Oakley's charge. For he said that "If we put our Nonconformity in such a way as to embarrass the action of political parties, you may depend upon it we shall throw back, instead of advance, the cause of Liberal principles in this country." And he added, "There is at present a danger lest we might be putting too prominently principles which, however plausible, may be in certain cases, out of place."

Fortunately, Mr. Dale—at the delivery of whose lecture Mr. Morley was presiding—promptly declared his belief, "That there is not the slightest reason for Mr. Morley to regard with apprehension the position which the most advanced Nonconformists in this country are likely to take at the next election." And the next night, addressing the Dissenting Deputies, Mr. Carvell Williams said that, although Mr. Morley might be acquainted with facts justifying his exhortations, they were not within his own knowledge; for that he (Mr. Williams) did not know of a single constituency in England or Wales where the advocates of Disestablishment were occasioning embarrassment to the Liberal party; adding that, if so much could not be said of Scotland, it was because the Liberal leaders had challenged the friends of Disestablishment to speak their minds on the subject.

I take it that the testimony of two public men so well acquainted with Nonconformist feeling and proceedings may be regarded as effectually disposing of Mr. Morley's apprehensions.

If, however, there be in any mind a lingering doubt on that point, let the doubter ponder the following passage from the speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone at the Liberal meeting held in St. Pancras Vestry-hall last Friday night:—

"We have got one art in perfection, and that is the art of cutting up a majority into two or three minorities. In the present Parliament, one-half of the majority enjoyed by the Government is due to the ridiculous divisions among Liberals. We are the victims of our own crotchets. It is all very well to sow wild oats, but we are always sowing our wild oats. These sectional opinions which every man is putting forward are fatal to the general issue. There is a noble example, however, to the contrary in the largest section of the Liberal party—the Nonconformists. If there is any section of the Liberal party which is entitled to urge

and to force its own peculiar opinions, irrespective of times and circumstances, that section is the Nonconformists. What is their peculiar opinion? Their special and distinctive opinion relates to Disestablishment. They have in their own minds and consciences, not merely a political idea, but a religious conviction on that question. And yet what is their conduct? What an example, what a model, are they placing before us! They are putting their own views into the shade, in order that they may not interfere with the success of the cause in which their particular idea is included and absorbed.

What a contrast is this generous and unsolicited testimony to the ignorant denunciations of Mr. Oakley and the mistrustful implications of Mr. Morley!

If there be danger, it seems to me to lie in an opposite direction, and therefore I hope that, while we continue firm in our determination to oust the present Government, we shall be neither intimidated nor cajoled into a seeming abandonment of our distinctive principles, even in connection with the approaching General Election.

A NONCONFORMIST ELECTOR.

March 1, 1880.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist and Independent*.

SIR,—There can be little doubt your correspondent, "An Old Subscriber," is perfectly right. "If," he remarks, "the Liberals are to win at the next election they will have to work hard for it; the public-house interest will be an all-important element in the contest." The alliance between the Conservatives and the publicans was notorious at the last election, and it will be still more pronounced in the forthcoming struggle. It is equally obvious that the "backbone of the Liberal party"—the Nonconformists—will have nothing to do with the publicans, and much to their honour would prefer their party to remain out of office rather than gain power by obeying the contemptibly selfish dictates of the beerhouse. In fact, I believe a reaction throughout the country would speedily take place, if the common sense of Englishmen were appealed to by the persistently repeated question, "Do you wish the country to be ruled by the beerhouse, and its policy dictated from the bar of the gin-palace? If so, vote for the Conservative candidate."

Under these circumstances it is the paramount duty of every Liberal to make up his mind on the general question of legislative interference with the liquor traffic. And those who wish to arrive at a sound opinion cannot do better than study the working of the Irish Sunday Closing Act, which has achieved a success beyond the hopes of its most sanguine friends. The determined opposition of the Tory party against this measure should not be forgotten; and yet a few weeks ago I met a leading Tory wire-puller resident in Dublin, who confessed he was completely convinced of the enormous benefit that has accrued from this Act, and remarked, "it would be a national calamity if the Act were not renewed" (for it is tentative at present), and he hoped it would soon be extended to the exempted towns. Now, what the Sunday Closing Act has done for Ireland in diminishing drunkenness and crime consequent on drunkenness, a similar Act may do for Wales, and, eventually, let us hope, for England. If anything further were needed to expose the fallacy of the common saying, that you cannot make a man sober by Act of Parliament, the Irish Sunday Closing Act has supplied it.

But there is one point which I wish to press upon your readers, and that is the terrible curse that, here, at any rate, has followed the granting of wine and spirit licences to grocers. This measure has, undoubtedly, been as socially as it was politically injurious. Possibly but for it Mr. Gladstone might still have been in power. As an instance of the way in which it works take the whole of the large suburban district in which I live—a district which includes a populous town like Kingstown. So far as I know there is only one grocer in all this district who does not combine with his legitimate trade an underhand and demoralising traffic in strong drink. Stacks of biscuit boxes are ranged up in every whisky grocer's shop, dividing the shop into two parts, and behind the screen of boxes secret drinking goes on all day long. The facility for obtaining vile spirits under the guise of purchasing groceries; the allurements to servant girls and the poorer classes when out marketing; the tastes which in some cases are thus created, and to many poor girls the deeper degradation that follows—these are evils so flagrant and so frightful that if they were realised by Christian men and women "whisky grocers" would at once be swept away, and, no doubt, the publicans, on selfish grounds, would be only too glad to lend a helping hand.

Will you permit me, in conclusion, to say one word in reference to your article on Modern Polytheism in Morals, which excited so much discussion in your columns and elsewhere. I must confess that it was with pain and surprise I read the article, and fully expected it would irritate and alienate some of your warmest friends. But let me beg of your critics in the *Alliance News* to regard the lofty principles and policy you have always advocated, and the powerful support Nonconformists have everywhere given to temperance reform, rather than fasten upon a solitary article, and dissect it week after week in what seems so like malicious glee. Let temperance men look back upon the conflicts of the past, see who are their true and steadfast friends, and, with Nonconformists, help to stay the wickedness which now exists in high places. Then the time will be nearer

"When righteousness shall be,
And the wolf shall be dead in Arcady, and Dragon in the sea."

Yours obediently,

W. F. BARRETT.

Monkstown, Dublin, March 1.

THE LIBERAL OUTLOOK.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist and Independent*.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me, in reply to your article in last week's number, to refer your readers to the accompanying statement, which sets forth the condition of the Liberal party as regards the present Conservative Administration now, and also the position in which the Conservative party stood towards the Liberal Government at the beginning of 1874.

If any one should be inclined to doubt the accuracy of my statements, I refer him to Mr. Gladstone's article on "Electoral Facts," which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century* for November, 1878.

Yours obediently,

C. H. T.

Since the General Election of February, 1874, the Liberal party have gained the following seats:—

1875.—Brecknockshire, Norwich (Liberal unseated and writ suspended), Horsham.

1876.—Manchester, Leominster, Cumberland East, County Leitrim, Carmarthen, &c., Frome.

1877.—Oldham, Great Grimsby.

1878.—Tamworth, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Maldon.

1879.—Glasgow, County Donegal.

15 seats, or 30 votes on a division.

In the same time the Conservative party have gained the following seats:—

1874.—Oxford City, Boston, North Durham, Northampton.

1875.—County Tipperary, East Aberdeenshire. (As Sir A. Gordon seceded to the Opposition, December, 1878, this gain is cancelled.)

1876.—Cork City.

1877.—Wilton.

1878.—Worcester, County Down, New Ross.

1880.—Southwark.

11 seats, or 22 votes on a division.

Balance of gain to Liberals—4 seats, or 8 votes on a division.

During the Parliament of 1868—74, the Liberal party gained 10 seats, or 20 votes on a division; the Conservative party 32 seats, or 64 votes on a division—thus giving the Conservatives a clear gain of 22 seats, or 44 votes on a division.

DR. WARDLAW.—REPLY OF THE INQUIRER.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist and Independent*.

SIR,—Let me acknowledge the courtesy of the Editor of the *Inquirer* in transferring my letter to his columns and in sending me a copy of his rejoinder. He says, "We are free to confess that 'truculent' was not the most appropriate designation that could be applied to Dr. Wardlaw's work." And here the matter might end, so far as the reputation of Dr. Wardlaw's style in controversy is concerned. But there are some principles of great importance at all times—and never more so than now—which come to the surface in connection with the subject, and I therefore beg permission to revert to it. In justice to the *Inquirer*, perhaps I should say that the editor does not withdraw from the substance of his charge against Dr. Wardlaw in the controversy with Mr. Yates. But with the grounds on which he bases his charge I will deal in a letter to himself.

That men holding Dr. Wardlaw's views in relation to what was then called "the Socinian Controversy" should feel strongly on the subject, and should express themselves strongly—always, however, within the bounds prescribed by charity—need excite no surprise. If they did not, it must be because of an imperfect apprehension of the questions at issue. The question whether worship is due to Jesus Christ as to God is in itself immeasurably important, for it involves the further question whether we Evangelical Christians are idolaters or not. But, further, the question of the person of Christ carries with it the question of the entire or essential character of Christianity itself, whether it be a mediation and a redemption, or only brings to us some additional light and moral influence. This distinction must be recognised on both sides, and all that it involves should be frankly and boldly discussed.

That it is our duty to cultivate calmness as well as charity in the discussion may be admitted. But there are two processes of which we have to complain, against which we have to guard, and of which we have, at least, occasional examples in our pulpits. The first is the avoidance or practical ignoring of the great doctrines of the Godhead and atonement of Christ. The Bible is full of topics of interest and of practical concern, on which a preacher may dilate from Sunday to Sunday, and be very Biblical. He teaches nothing but what he finds in the Bible,—only he omits a great deal; occasionally, perhaps, using some old Evangelical phrases, though not in an Evangelical sense. The second process to which I have referred is the minimising of the difference between Evangelical and Unitarian when it must be referred to. There are good men on both sides—so runs the apologetic strain. These are matters in regard to which men may differ conscientiously; the grand concern is to get at the spirit of Christianity. With sayings such as these, which as abstract propositions may be accepted with certain explanations, all concern about the question whether Jesus Christ was the God-Man, and whether His death was an atonement for the sins of the world, is calmed down as unnecessary, if not frowned down as bigoted and uncharitable.

No man could get a hearing in a Congregational church who should avow Unitarianism as his creed. But let a man follow such devices as these discreetly, whatever his motives, and the consequence will be this: those who are most sensitive to the want or defect in his preaching, will, for the most part, seek spiritual instruction elsewhere. Others will gradually acquire a liking to the new style of things. And still others, who would not listen to an Evangelical preacher, will gather round this "Broad" man. And by degrees a complete revolution will be effected, and "all things become new." The plea which is urged in defence of the process is the plea of liberty. But those who urge

it should remember that there is such a thing as honesty; and should further remember that the liberties of the pew are as sacred as the liberties of the pulpit, and that the claim of absolute liberty in the pulpit is a claim of despotism over the pew.

A finer example of self-sacrificing conscientiousness has never been set than by Dr. Ralph Wardlaw. If he ever wrote a word in controversy which could rightfully be regarded as unjust or uncharitable, he would be the first to retract it on reason being shown. But let us not be ashamed of the boldness with which he contended for truth. And let us demand that those with whom we contend shall speak out clearly without disguise. Let them show themselves on the open common and not fight in ambush. We shall then know what to think of them and how to face them.

I am yours, &c.,

March 1, 1880.

JOHN KENNEDY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—Will you permit me to call the attention of Dr. Kennedy and of the readers of his letter, in the last number of your paper, to the following statement, which I have extracted from the fourth edition of Mr. Yates's "Vindication of Unitarianism"?

"After I had published the preceding observations in the year 1817, I again noticed Dr. Wardlaw's charge of 'wilful and deliberate misrepresentation' in the advertisement to the second edition of the 'Vindication,' A.D. 1818, and also in the advertisement to the second edition of the 'Sequel to the Vindication,' A.D. 1822. In the preface to the fourth edition of his 'Discourses,' A.D. 1828, Dr. Wardlaw adhered to his representation. This led to a correspondence in the *Christian Pioneer* for October and November, 1828, and for January and May, 1829; and the result of this correspondence is at length stated by my opponent in the preface to his fifth and last edition, A.D. 1837, in the following very handsome and gratifying terms:—'The mutual explanations in that correspondence,' says he, 'were, so far at least, mutually satisfactory as to determine me to cancel, in the present edition, all that had been said on the subject; and, simply referring the reader (if such an one there be) who may have any portion of curiosity on a point so purely personal to the correspondence mentioned, to leave it to oblivion.'"

This retraction is honourable to Dr. Wardlaw's character, and was accompanied by kind expressions of personal regard toward Mr. Yates; but the merit of the act rests upon the acknowledgment of a controversial offence.

I am, yours faithfully,

Kenilworth, Feb. 28, 1880.

JOHN GORDON.

BECHUANALAND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—While general attention is being directed to South African affairs in the Transvaal and Zululand, there are other parts of the same country equally worthy of attention. The Zulu war was immediately preceded by disturbances along almost the whole of the Colonial frontier. First came the Kafir war. That was followed by the war with the Griquas and Bechuana in and around the newly-annexed territory of Griqualand West. The Zulu war, and especially the terrible slaughter of British troops and their native allies at Isandhlwana, seems to have had more to do with forcing these things upon public notice than anything else.

Soon after the discovery of diamonds on the banks of the Vaal River, a large tract of country was proclaimed British territory. A small part of this belonged to the Orange Free State, and for which the Boers afterwards received £90,000. The rest of this tract of country was native territory. These natives consisted of two distinct peoples, each occupying their own portion. On the west were the Griquas, living under their chief, Waterboer. To the north were the Bechuana, living under their Christian chief, Yanke. It may be safely affirmed that had the wishes of these people been consulted, it would have been found that they were as strongly averse to coming under British rule as are the Boers of the Transvaal to-day.

But this need not have been an insurmountable difficulty in the way of progress had their welfare been justly cared for. A market for native labour and produce was open, near at hand, on the diamond fields, of which the natives were not slow to avail themselves. From far and near they brought cattle, feathers, skins, grain, firewood, &c. Others in large numbers came to work. In return they received English money, with which they bought English goods, but especially guns, powder, and lead. Thousands of guns were thus distributed amongst the natives all over the country, from the best breech-loading rifles down to the commonest muskets, each barrel bringing grist to the Government mill in the shape of ten shillings duty. Magistrates were appointed to various districts to represent British authority amongst the natives at a distance from Kimberley, which was the seat of Government, and the great centre of European population. Gaols were built and police enrolled. At the same time canteens were licensed and opened in every available place for the sale of Cape brandy. Licensed hawkers, travelling in waggons, carried the same pernicious wares to all the native villages and hamlets, bringing disturbance and misery wherever they came. They would even cross the border, and in defiance of the chiefs, carry on the sale in front of their very doors. And if a chief attempted to interfere, he would be threatened with the soldiers and police.

One of the saddest sights to be seen there any day was that of natives riding backwards and forwards to these places on horseback or on oxback, infuriated by drink, or to see men and women rolling about or lying hopelessly intoxicated under the shadow of the staff bearing aloft the British flag. This was the licensed process of civilisation, under the patronage of the

British Government—the brandy shop, the magistrate's court, and the gaol. The effect of this state of things, especially in these outlying districts, was appalling, and many of the natives became more debased and impoverished than ever they had been as heathen. Up to this time the native chiefs had prohibited the sale of these drinks in their country, well knowing the evils they brought. But the Government deliberately broke down the feeble barriers, and flooded the country with ruin. At Griqua Town the chief became the prey of canteen keepers and others, and turned out a besotted imbecile; and many of his people are very little better.

In 1877 a number of the chief native inhabitants of Griqua Town drew up a petition addressed to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, imploring her to stay the ruin coming upon them, and stop the sale of drink. This petition reached the Colonial Office in November, 1877; but no notice was taken of it further than an acknowledgment to the forwarder. Had the wrongs of these poor people been inquired into at the time, it is probable that much misery and bloodshed might have been averted. But the cry of the helpless was disregarded.

The country called Griqualand was, as above noted, chiefly occupied by Griquas; but here and there were villages of Bechuana, acknowledging the authority of the Griqua chief. Many of the Griquas had received titles to their farms from their chief. These they were now called upon to prove in an English Court, and Griqualand became proverbial for land jobbing. The Bechuana squatters, many of whom had been born in the country, who could show no title except that of occupancy and permission of the chief, had to go where they could to make room for English and Dutch farmers, and those in the villages lived in constant fear of being turned out. In Yanke's country a great deal of the land was divided into farms and allotted to Europeans, and the natives compelled to turn out.

The yoke of English rule began to gall. The law was administered to natives through the medium of the English language. They were at the mercy of Civil Commissioners and agents; the avowed intention of many of whom was to get rid of the "niggers" as soon as possible. The expenses connected with the processes of law were to natives ruinous, and to get justice was almost impossible, except, perhaps, at Kimberley. I myself happened on one occasion to go into one of these Courts, presided over by a British magistrate. A number of natives were being tried for cattle stealing. What was said in English had to be translated through two different languages before the men could understand what was said to them. They were evidently terrified by the surroundings of the Court. One was spoken to by the magistrate. He said something to the prisoner next him, and was told to be silent. Another one was spoken to, and he turning, according to native custom, to speak to another, a policeman was ordered to strike him over the head. They were condemned to twelve-months hard labour. "Not," said he of the law, turning to those in Court, "that there was any evidence to convict, but because he was morally certain that they were guilty." The cattle of the natives were impounded, and the pound-master could take the best of the herd to pay himself and damages. Others were obliged to mortgage their waggons and their lands to pay debts into which they had been drawn by land-jobbing store and canteen keepers, or to pay the charges of agents. Some in Griqualand were made drunk by these land-sharks, and while in that state signed away their lands on papers prepared for the occasion. To appeal to the magistrate was to get farther into trouble; at least, so they said. These are but examples of the way in which things were managed.

In 1878 war broke out. The natives rose with the determination of destroying every European in the country; they were joined by many living in the country round Kuruman who had learned to hate the English. A few Europeans were murdered, the rest barely escaped. Desolation came upon the country, and had it not been for the personal kindness of Colonels Lanyon and Warren it would have been even worse. Hundreds of natives were killed, and their property to the value, it was said, of sixty or seventy thousand pounds fell into the hands of the volunteers. Numbers were taken to prison, where many of them died; their families were left to do the best they could in the deserts and mountains; their wives and daughters were the prey of a set of brutal Kaffirs and Zulus who attended the volunteers as allies and helpers. Some there were who deserved punishment, but they were few as compared with the many innocent who suffered.

And while the future of the Transvaal and Zululand is being discussed, Bechuanaland deserves attention too. Is it to be proclaimed British territory? and if so, what is to be done with the natives? Or are they to be left alone? Are they still to be pursued by drink sellers and land jobbers? Or are they to receive something like just consideration at the hands of Christian England?

Hoping you will excuse my trespassing so far upon your space,

I remain, &c.,

A. J. WOOKEY.

YORKSHIRE AND THE CHURCH-AID SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—A Yorkshire Minister "has taken bitterly to heart the action of the Executive of the County Union in warning the aided churches and the district committees of the end to which the Union was hastening, unless the income could be increased or the expenditure lessened. By a strange misconception, however, he finds, or seems to find, the cause of the present state of matters in the fact that the Yorkshire Union has become associated with the Church-Aid Society. Had he waited a few weeks, the misconception might have been avoided; for he would then have learned that the Church-Aid Society has not been slow to hold out a helping hand to Yorkshire. But this is not the only

service the Church-Aid Society renders to that county in common with other counties.

Whilst the County Associations stood apart, they could run into debt, in the hope, often disappointed, that times would mend. Now, it is necessary to commence each year without encumbrance. Whether the wiser course to follow, in order to do so, be to lessen grants twenty per cent., or to trust in the reality of the Church-Aid Society and seek its help, may be left to be judged by the results.

I believe it will be found that to secure the hearty co-operation of all in the work of the society, we must have entire confidence in each other, and show that we have that confidence by asking help when we need it; for, so long as the counties of England are classified as rich and poor, so long will the Church-Aid Society fail to obtain that position in the country which we hope for it.

I am, &c.,

A NONDESCRIPT.

Ripon, March 2, 1880.

THE CENSUS OF 1851.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Verax," writing under the heading "The Church Times and the Census of 1851," estimates the attendances at the services of the Established Church at 3,773,474, and those at the various Nonconformist places of worship at 3,487,558. In the ninth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," the census returns for 1851 are as follows:—

	Total attendances in places of worship.
Church of England	2,971,258
Roman Catholics	249,389
All other religious bodies	3,435,575

Thus giving to the Nonconformists a majority of nearly half a million over the Episcopalians, or (including Roman Catholics) a percentage of 52.6 as against 47.4.

If these figures may be considered as trustworthy (of which I have little doubt) they form a very significant comment on the statement in the *Church Times* impugning the veracity of Mr. Bright.

Yours truly,

H. W. R. C.

March 1, 1880.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT TOOTING.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—The letters which have appeared in your journal, intimating that the Congregational Church at Tooting and Dr. Anderson, its minister, have offered themselves, the chapel, endowments, and manse, to the Presbyterians, have occasioned great surprise.

I was the immediate predecessor of Dr. Anderson at Tooting, and ministered there for more than eight years. When I left the church was thoroughly united, full of promise, and as truly Congregational as any church in the land. Some time after his settlement, Dr. Anderson alienated some of the best men, who had long been connected with the place, and who were worthy of the greatest respect on account of their piety, intelligence, and great usefulness. One after the other withdrew, until the chapel was almost deserted, and left to deteriorate into a state of strange dilapidation.

Having succeeded in reducing the church and congregation almost to zero, some of the few members who remain have been persuaded to join in an application for admission into the Presbyterian body. Had Dr. Anderson applied for admission on his own behalf only, none would have any cause to complain; but to offer to the Presbyterians his trust, the chapel, with its annual endowments of £45, and the manse recently built, towards which a few hundreds of pounds have been given with the understanding that it was to be nothing more nor less than a Congregational manse, is a line of conduct that I cannot trust my pen to designate fully.

Before I left Tooting for Torquay the people resolved to build a manse. Towards this object a goodly sum was speedily promised. On my departure £55 13s. 4d. were placed in trust, with the perfect understanding that as it had been raised for a Congregational manse it was not to be used for any other object. The trustees, Mr. Medcalf, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Wood, who were also deacons, deposited the money in a bank, where it accumulated to the amount of £80 15s. 3d.

Some time ago Dr. Anderson applied to the trustees for the money, which they declined to give up until they had proper security that it would be rightly appropriated. Acting under the advice of counsel, they paid it into a court of law, when each of them was freed from his responsibility, and this money (deducting legal expenses) was handed over to Dr. Anderson for the Congregational manse.

During my pastorate at Tooting there was not a member of the church who had any Presbyterian predilections. The church is one of our oldest Congregational churches, and was favoured before my time with a succession of devout and eminent Independent ministers. I spent happy days as its pastor, and had a true friend in every member of the church and congregation. My three excellent deacons, to whom I have referred, are still living, and can bear testimony to the facts I have recorded.

Yours truly,

F. FOX THOMAS.

Harrogate, March 2, 1880.

AN URGENT CASE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—Permit me to lay before your readers an urgent case. A lady—whose husband died a few years ago from softening of the brain, and took an active part in religious and philanthropic movements—was left with eight children. She took a sea-side boarding-house, and mortgaged her furniture for £250. Two bad seasons have almost ruined her. A forced sale was only averted in December by my advancing £50, and the remaining £200 must be paid by the 11th inst., or she will be without a home. Hence I plead for prompt and liberal help. Particulars will be given, and contributions received by Mr. Robert Paton, 43, Highbury-quadrant, N.; Mr. Joseph Surr, The Shrubbery, Stamford-hill, N.; Mr. Frederick Stanford, Manor House, Barnham, Arundel, or by

Yours faithfully,

GAWIN KIRKHAM.

15, Beresford-road, Highbury New-park, London, N., March 1st, 1880.

THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—In your issue of 19th inst. is a letter by "C. H. T." on the Southwark election, giving expression to his views on the probable results of the coming General Election. I so far share his views that I think everything possible should be done to bring about a different state of feeling; and though, under present circumstances, the prospect may seem very discouraging, I believe there is one way which will ensure success, the advocacy of which in your widely-circulating paper would be of great advantage. That way is prayer—the way the Christian ought always to follow. We read in Scripture that the fervent, persevering prayers of the righteous avail much, and that assurance would not have been given us had it not been God's purpose to fulfil it. I cannot help thinking if those who practically believe in God's Word would thus put Him to the proof it would bring about a reaction in the minds of vast numbers of those who by their votes have the matter so much in their own hands, and would cause such consternation in the ranks of those who, by their reckless advocacy of the warlike policy of the present Government, show they have so little fear of God before their eyes, that a wonderful change would be speedily apparent. It seems to me a deeply solemn responsibility, especially at the present time, rests with all who believe in the reality of prayer and in the existence of a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. I cannot doubt He would grant such an answer to the heartfelt petitions of His servants as would tend greatly to increase their faith and be to His own honour and glory. I wish you would give prominence to this important matter, and direct the attention of your readers to it.

Yours, &c.,
A CONSTANT READER.

THE LATE LIVERPOOL ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—Let me repeat the question so frequently asked already, "Why was the Liverpool election lost by the Liberals?" and try to answer it in plain English metaphor. Because our Tory friends managed to unite two opposite parties in this wise—one hand was placed on the shoulder of brother publican, and the other on the shoulder of the (newly adopted) brother teetotaler; and thus the two opposite parties were brought together. Surely the brethren must have asked themselves the question, "Are we then so much alike?" I leave the true friends of temperance to furnish a reply.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
Feb. 27, 1880.
A CONSTANT READER.

WOMEN AND THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—The Memorial, a copy of which is appended below, is daily receiving signatures in different parts of the country. We shall esteem it a favour if you will permit me to ask the active help of all who sympathise with the prayer of the memorial, so that it may adequately represent the interest felt in the subject.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

MARY STEADMAN ALDIS.

Ryton-on-Tyne, Feb. 23, 1880.

TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The Memorial of the undersigned persons, interested in the higher education of women,

SHewETH—

That repeated instances of success, on the part of students of Girton and Newnham Colleges, in satisfying the examiners in various degree examinations at Cambridge, and notably an instance in connection with the last Mathematical Tripos, show that many women desire sound training in higher learning, and also desire to have the results of that training authoritatively tested and certified.

That the present irregular admission of women to the various Tripos examinations of the University of Cambridge, depending as it does on the courtesy of individual examiners, is unsatisfactory as regards the University, and is liable to cause severe disappointment to candidates who may possibly find themselves refused admission to examinations for which they have been working for years.

Your Memorialists, therefore pray that the Senate of the University of Cambridge will grant to properly qualified women the right of admission to the examinations for University degrees, and to the degrees conferred according to the results of such examinations.

THE FAMINE IN NORTH PERSIA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist and Independent.

SIR,—Perhaps you would kindly insert the following extract from a letter from Mrs. Labaree, the wife of one of the American missionaries at Oroomiah. It gives a dreadful picture of the sufferings of the people. We shall forward speedily to the mission any help sent to us. We have already despatched several hundred pounds. *Bis, dat qui cito dat.*

I am, your obedient servant,

GAVIN CARLYLE.

Turkish Missions Aid Society, 8, Adam-street,
Strand, London, W.C., Feb. 25, 1880.

"The one absorbing theme here now is the starving poor, and what can be done for them. The price of flour now is 24 the load of about five bushels (320 lbs.) Last year at this time the price was twelve shillings per load. All food is equally high in proportion, and it is utterly impossible for the people to maintain themselves. A man's wages are sevenpence a day; a woman's threepence-halfpenny. But at this season there is little or no work. Many are starving, and the suffering of multitudes is dreadful. Very many have sold everything which they had of apparel, bedding, and cooking utensils, and after the small quantity of food which they thus obtained is exhausted, their condition is deplorable, with neither food, clothing, nor fuel. A large proportion of the families in the village just below us have torn down their houses, in order to sell the timbers, and have gone down to the plain, seeking shelter in stables, or any place which they can find. Their opportunities for getting little jobs of work, or for begging, are greater than here on the mountains. We have heard of a number of instances in which, after having disposed of everything

available, the head of the family has mixed arsenic with the last food, and destroyed the whole household. Last week I was told of a family of eight thus poisoned, and the next day heard of another case in which two persons had died from the effects of the arsenic, and two were very low. The mission, some time ago, opened a soup kitchen, where the first forty persons who come are served with one meal daily. This is but a drop in the bucket. The swarm of beggars is innumerable, and constantly increasing. So far as we have the means to furnish work, we dispense charity in this way, furnishing wool or cotton to spin and weave, or putting men to work on the roads or college grounds. We are asking the Lord to send us help."

NOTES FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

SYDNEY, Dec. 31, 1879.

THE education question still holds amongst us a prominent position, and indeed may still be regarded as the question of the day. Sir Henry Parkes' Bill was carried, on its second reading in the Assembly, by a division of forty-nine to nine. It has since been discussed in committee, several clauses having been readily agreed to, the only one exciting serious opposition being that which would provide religious unsectarian teaching and history in the schools. As Sir Henry staked his Bill on this being agreed to the opposition was considerably lessened, and the clause ultimately passed. The clause providing for the gradual withdrawal of State-aid from denominational schools has yet to be considered. Outside there are occasionally warm demonstrations on the subject. In the country towns enthusiastic meetings are held, but nearly all in favour of the Bill. The Anglican Bishop has endeavoured to rally his forces in favour of the denominational system by delivering an address in the Masonic Hall, but it is well known that many of both the clergy and laity do not agree with him. The Roman Catholic Archbishop still, by addresses on every available opportunity, endeavours to arouse the faithful to his side, but there are signs of indifference, if not absolute coldness, among many of his hearers. The other Sunday he charged his hearers to visit public-houses less and the confessional more, and they would all then withdraw their children from the public schools.

But the most decided expression of opinion has been given at an election in East Sydney, caused by the appointment of Mr. Stuart as agent-general in London. The two principal candidates were Dr. Renwick, a well-known and much-respected retired physician, and Mr. Tooth, a wealthy brewer, and uncle to the Rev. Mr. Tooth, of Hatcham notoriety. It was thought that either candidate had a fair prospect of success, only that the doctor's chances seemed greater because he avowed himself in favour of Sir H. Parkes' Bill, whereas Mr. Tooth was in favour of denominational schools. But on the Sunday previous to the election Archbishop Vaughan, while pretending to dwell in a pure atmosphere far above the trickeries of politics, yet gave the advice to his church to vote for the brewer. This quickly roused the Protestant blood of the electorate, and the doctor was returned by a majority of nearly 2,000 votes, as many as 4,063 votes being recorded for him. The Rev. J. A. Dowie was led by a few ardent temperance followers to stand in this contest, vainly imagining that he would be returned on the question of reforming the licensing laws. But even the teetotalers were so aroused on the education question that their temperance candidate was left almost alone in his glory, only receiving 147 votes.

Our Treasurer has recently made his statement in the Assembly. There is an ugly deficiency of £200,000, chiefly caused by a falling off in the sale of lands. The Treasurer does not think the colony ripe enough yet for a property or income-tax, and proposes a renewal of the stamp duties, and increased duties on spirits, wines, beers, &c.

After an exciting trial, the Wantabadgery bushrangers, who were captured with considerable bravery by troopers and the loss of the life of a valued officer, have been found guilty and sentenced to death. Two will receive the extreme sentence of the law, but two have had their sentence commuted to imprisonment for life.

The International Exhibition is attracting greater numbers than ever, and Sydney is overflowing with visitors. There is nothing particularly new in the Garden Palace since last I wrote, except the opening of the Art Gallery. There are many paintings of great merit, and which are deservedly and generally praised, but many are decidedly inferior, and many, especially in the French Court, are of a character which greatly offends the unsophisticated tastes of colonial society. Perhaps we are twitted with deficiency in training for the appreciation of high art, but may the day be far distant when to study high art we are compelled to exhibit to our sons and daughters paintings of figures entirely nude.

By a letter just received from New Guinea, dated Oct. 29th, we learn that Mr. Chalmers is well, that the mission stations along the east coast of Papuan Bay are flourishing, and that a journey for several miles inland has recently been successfully undertaken.

Pastor Chiniquy, after a very successful tour through all the colonies, left last week for New Zealand, en route for America. A farewell meeting was held, which was well attended. In the address presented, several conversions from Roman Catholicism were spoken of as the result of the pastor's visit. It was also stated that in all the colonies £4,790 had been contributed to his mission in America, of which sum £2,200 had been given by New South Wales.

The result of the University junior and senior examinations has just been published. There were about 400 candidates, of whom 300 passed—a large proportion, especially considering that the standard has been recently made higher.

The following changes have recently taken place in our churches. The Rev. C. Price, of Bathurst, has gone over to the Church of England. The Rev. Morgan Williams, B.A., just arrived from England, has been invited to succeed him. The Rev. E. W. Spence has accepted an invitation to Marriekville. The Rev. T. S. Forsaith has resigned the editorship of the *New South Wales Independent*, which post he has ably filled for many years, and the Rev. J. F. Cullen has been appointed in his place.

THE CEMETERY CHAPEL QUESTION.

So far as the Archbishop of Canterbury is concerned, a question of great practical importance to Burial Boards and ratepayers has just been settled. The Burslem Burial Board, it will be remembered, wished to have one chapel only in their new cemetery, for the use of all parties, and, therefore, unconsecrated. The Bishop of Lichfield, however, alleged that it would be illegal for the Established clergy to perform a funeral service in an unconsecrated building, and recommended that there be no chapel. The Burslem Board, however, have resolved to take their own course, and to build but one chapel, and that on the unconsecrated ground, leaving Episcopalians to settle their difference with the Bishop.

Since then the Herne (Kent) Burial Board has wished to follow the example of the Burslem Board, for economy's sake, and to prevent any sectarian distinction in their new cemetery. For that purpose they applied to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in whose diocese the cemetery is situate, asking if he would consecrate part of the ground, with a chapel unconsecrated, so that it might be available for Nonconformists as well as Churchmen. His Grace replied that he was himself inclined to favour the adoption of such a course; but that, before coming to a decision, he must consult his legal advisers.

That he has now done, and on Monday night the Vestry had before it the Archbishop's reply, which was as follows:—

Lambeth Palace, February 26, 1880.

My dear Sir,—The Archbishop of Canterbury is advised that the Burial Acts do not require that the chapel to be built upon the land appropriated for a burial ground under the Acts shall be consecrated. The chapel might be so placed as to be contiguous to the ground consecrated without actually standing on it. The Archbishop, as at present advised, is prepared to act on this opinion. Whatever arrangement is made, the plans must, of course, be submitted to the Archbishop.—I remain, yours faithfully,
CYRIL B. HARCOURT, Private Secretary.

Mr. J. G. Fawcett, Clerk to the Herne Burial Board.

At the Vestry Meeting it was stated that the Burial Board had met previous to the Vestry, and adopted the following resolution:—

That this Board, having heard the letter of the Archbishop, in which he consents to the erection of one chapel for the burial ground for the Herne parish, hereby resolve that only one chapel shall be built, which shall be unconsecrated, so placed as to stand on neutral ground between the consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the cemetery, for the joint use of Nonconformists and Churchmen.

The Vestry was an unusually large one, showing the wide interest excited in the settlement of the question. It was also known that the Vicar of Herne, while agreeing to the letter sent to the Archbishop, was not content with his decision, and had resolved to try and secure the erection of two chapels. In accordance with this view, it was proposed that two chapels be built, one to be approved by the Archbishop and consecrated by him for the use of Churchmen, and the other to be approved by the Secretary of State for the use of Nonconformists.

To this resolution, the Rev. T. Blandford (Congregationalist) proposed as an amendment—

That the meeting having heard the letter of the Archbishop to the Burial Board, and their resolution thereon, do hereby approve of their determination to build only one chapel, to be placed on neutral ground, and used alike by Nonconformists and Churchmen.

This amendment was seconded by Mr. Hogbin, a Wesleyan, and supported by others, and notably by the Vicar of Herne Bay (one of the ecclesiastical parishes of Herne), who quoted the publicly-expressed opinion of the Bishop Suffragan of Dover, Bishop Parry, who was thoroughly at one with the Archbishop as to the desirability of putting an end to the distinctions of religious belief so far as cemetery chapels were concerned. The amendment was carried by a majority of 34 to 12, as it had been previously in the Burial Board by a majority of 8 to 1. Thus this vexed question, in so far as Herne parish is concerned, is settled, it is hoped, not only in the interests of religious equality, but of peace and goodwill.

This action of the Primate is likely to have far-reaching consequences; for, if he has been correctly advised, not only is there no necessity for the erection of any more consecrated cemetery chapels, but consecrated ground must be equally unnecessary. Nor can it be supposed that one course will be pursued in the diocese of Canterbury, and another course in other dioceses; so that, practically, all the painfully elaborate provisions of the Burial Acts relating to consecrated and unconsecrated ground and chapels will become unnecessary, and the principle contended for in Mr. Osborne Morgan's enlarged resolution is already conceded!

We have received from Messrs. Frederick Warne and Co. two editions of *Evenings at Home*, by Dr. AITKIN and Mrs. BARBAULD, which still preserve a certain claim to acceptance. They are necessarily in small type, but in every way neat, and, no doubt, many will prize them for the coloured engravings by Dalziel Brothers, which strike us rather as wanting in neutral tints. As a companion pair to these we have *Sandford and Merton*, by THOMAS DAY, which, with the very effective and stirring coloured illustrations, should prove as great a favourite with the boys of the future as with the boys of the past generation. Of both these there is also a cheaper edition, bound in coloured paper, so that all grades of society and of book-buying means may be said to have been studied.

Literature.

MR. JAMES MACDONELL ON FRANCE *

FEW, probably, of our readers require to be told that the author of this book was one of the most brilliant and promising of the rising journalists of London, and the centre of a growing circle of men and women formed of the *élite* of Liberal culture and refinement in the metropolis. Over this circle Mr. Macdonell threw a light of irresistible fascination, a fascination in which the spell of fine, strong, masculine intelligence was blended with the subtler and sweeter magic of a beautiful emotional nature and a good heart. The only way in which James Macdonell fell behind, or, shall we say, rose above, the fashionable intellectualism of London was that he had never caught its frozen sneer, never been chilled by its cynicism. When, suddenly, he was struck down by death—when the radiant spirit, keen as fire and tender as dew, burnt its way out of its earthly tenement and dwelt with us no more—it was not with the mere craving of unsatisfied admiration, but with the heart-heaviness of bereaved affection, that all who knew him deplored his loss.

Listened to on every subject with eager attention, Mr. Macdonell was heard always when he touched upon the subject of France with the deference due to one who had a right to speak with authority. "Probably," says Mr. Meredith Townsend, who adds a few valuable pages to the last of Mr. Macdonell's chapters, "no man not a Frenchman watched France so closely. Thoroughly familiar with her modern history, and acquainted with most of her eminent men, Mr. Macdonell had a sympathy with French Republicans, a comprehension of their motives, their objects, and their foibles, which gave him often an insight into their fortunes that looked to less instructed men like prevision." Mrs. Macdonell, who contributes to the volume a very gracefully-written preface, writes to the same effect. "He loved France with an ardent love. He longed to make his countrymen just to her, to make them understand her history, and sympathise with her difficulties. He studied her history and her literature with ceaseless interest. Newspapers, essays, memoirs, histories, were carefully read, and from them were volumes of notes taken." The purpose of the book cannot be better stated than in the words of Mrs. Macdonell. "My husband's intention was to describe fully the four great parties which govern France: the Legitimist, the Orleanist, the Bonapartist, and the Republican." Of the first three we have descriptions in this volume, but that of the fourth "was never even begun." He had accumulated materials, but had not indicated even his plan of arrangement. "I have a volume of notes," says Mrs. Macdonell, "all that is left of countless hours of patient study, and of conscientious research."

There must, of course, be but one opinion as to the reality of the loss to political and historical literature arising from the incompleteness of Mr. Macdonell's work; but we cannot help thinking that Mr. Townsend somewhat exaggerates its extent. His well-grounded conception of the comprehensiveness and symmetry of the book as Mr. Macdonell might have finished it suggests, to say the least, to the reader's mind, an estimate of the existing book's value which we think too low. "My friend," he says, "intended to have expanded these notes—for, brilliant as many of them are, they are only notes—into a bird's-eye history of France since 1815, and especially to have added a sketch of the Republicans and their fortunes since 1870. This, as I judge from long and frequent conversations with him, would have been the most important and the most effective portion of his work." If the term "notes" can be held to define the chapters of this book, we have only to say that, though fully aware that the notes of historical writers are often most instructive and most racy, we have never seen notes approaching, in coherence of plan or elaborateness of execution, to these. We have no thought, however, of disputing about a word; what impresses us is that the parts of Mr. Macdonell's book here printed do contain a bird's-eye view of French history since 1815, with the exception of the period since 1870; and that this omission, lamentable as we feel it to be, is partially supplied by Mr. Townsend's distinct statement, grounded upon "long and frequent conversations" with Mr. Macdonell, of the author's opinion as to the condition and prospects of Republican France. That opinion we can compare with the preceding portions of the volume, and perceive its consistency with the views therein advanced, nor does there seem to be much reason for believing that Mr. Macdonell had in reserve any facts or arguments of cardinal value to support his estimate of Republican

vitality in France, of which no hint has been conveyed either to the readers of this volume or to Mr. Townsend. In one word, we believe that this book, whatever it may lack, possesses the grand recommendation of containing the final opinion on French affairs of a man of great ability and practised observation, who had for many years made France the object of special study. He would, doubtless, have fortified and illustrated that opinion with great effect, if he had treated of the Republican party as he has of the other French parties—he would probably have done much to obviate or answer objections which may occur to the reader—but "the central idea of his total judgment of France," to borrow Mr. Townsend's words, had been firmly embedded in the mind of his friend, and does duty here as at once the crown and keystone of the volume.

The "central idea" in question, as epitomised by Mr. Townsend in a few sentences, thrown by him dramatically into the mouth of Mr. Macdonell, is as follows:—

The French are essentially the most conservative people in Europe, the people most keen for acquisition, and the people among whom property is most widely diffused. Taking the landholders, the rentiers, and the people with hoards together, eight Frenchmen in every ten hold property, and they are perfectly certain not to give it up. They are not generous, they never subscribe, and they always push all claims to money to their precise legal limit. They will never consent to any system of division, or any annexation of inheritances by the State; and the Communists of the cities, if they rise a hundred times over, will be put down a hundred times. Society in France is founded on a rock. It is the one country in Europe in which social revolution, that is successful revolution, not a mere *émeute*, is impossible. The Church is the only Republican danger, or rather the Republican inability to leave the Church alone.

We take it that these words contain more of concentrated truth, touching the character of Frenchmen and the prospects of the French Republic, than had previously been printed with English type. To master them thoroughly is to obtain the key to French politics.

But, apart from the problems of the immediate present, and the delineation of that party which is now dominant in France, this book is replete with interest and instruction. The Legitimists, the Orleanists, the Bonapartists, are depicted with the strongest marking of distinctive characteristics, and the most rich and graphic selection of illustrative traits. Not only are the main currents of French history during the present century indicated, but many of the minor streams and eddies are felicitously described. Mr. Macdonell strikes us as specially successful in dealing with the Roman Catholic Church in France, and the strange developments which it has exhibited in the century of imperious science, and of resurgent and militant ecclesiasticism. He shows us, engaged in their noble but hopeless enterprise of wedding Catholicism to modern freedom and enlightenment, that gifted group of men—Lacordaire, Gerbet, and Montalembert, who followed Lamennais. This last we figure to ourselves as a kind of French John Henry Newman; but if he resembled his English fellow-Churchman in earnestness, and in a certain sombre cast of mind, he does not seem to have had the sustained intensity, or the tenacity, of Newman.

An extraordinary force (says Mr. Macdonell) was given to his teaching, not less by its aptness for a time in which masses of men were sick of political and religious compromise, than by the strength of his individuality, and by an eloquence, destitute indeed of French lightness and pliancy and sunny ease, but Hebrew in the richness and the majesty of its imagery, and steeped in the gloom of Breton woods and melodious with the wail of Breton seas.

Of course these aspiring spirits failed. The Papacy could no more be won from its old habits, and made flexible, progressive, and young by their melodious oratory, than an ancient oak could be made to dance by a skilfully-played tune on the fiddle. The days of Orpheus, and of people who had faith in the operations of Orpheus, are past.

In sharp contrast to the high-flown Catholic Liberals, rejoicing in the faith that the Church and science would be reconciled, arose the uncompromising Clerical party, who made this difference alone in their treatment of the Liberal Catholics, as compared with their treatment of the out-and-out Voltaireans, that they added to an equal, or almost equal, measure of their hatred for the latter a biting flavour of contempt for the former. The Clericals found a fitting champion in Louis Veuillot, editor of the *Univers*, one of the most singular figures that has mingled in public discussion in France since Marat, the man forbid, got his death-stab from Charlotte Corday. Before laying his pen at the foot of the Pope, Veuillot had been a writer on the *Figaro*, and had made himself a master of venomous and witty invective.

His writings (says Mr. Macdonell) are the most wonderful pieces of rhetoric ever laid at the feet of the Church. They are such as might be written by a haunter of *cafés* and theatres, a fast man about town, a reader of loose novels, a master of profane swearing, an orator of the democratic clubs, if all these personages were rolled into one tremendous compound, and if the corporate profanity were to be

converted in a single night to the faith that all Voltaireans are scoundrels, that the real crown of thorns is kept under lock and seal by the Archbishop of Paris, that crowds of miracles are worked at Lourdes, and that forty-nine people have been raised from the dead at Notre Dame de Lumières of Marseilles. The conversion of a single night would, of course, leave many traces of the last night's merriment, riot, or debauch. The convert would display no change of spirit, but only a change of antipathies. He would curse what he had been wont to bless, and bless what he had been wont to curse; but that would be all. Thus the editor of the *Univers* gives us a Christianity which has been soaked in the mud of the Quartier Latin, and the *cafés chantants*, a Christianity which has kept late hours, and has been about town for a few centuries. Its best quality is its virile and frank ferocity, for it gives the new commandment, that if a man strike thee on the one cheek, thou shalt hit him back; and hit hard. In his old state he believed nothing in particular, because the Quartier Latin, the *cafés*, and the *petite presse* were armed with no Ecumenical Council. But he is now as definite as if he kept an Ecumenical Council in his ink bottle.

This is singularly picturesque and racy language, and it is thus that Mr. Macdonell uniformly writes. The chapter which received his final touches is, we daresay, more exquisite in its polish than the other chapters, but we seriously doubt whether we should have discovered for ourselves that the others are inferior. Mr. Macdonell was so practised a writer, and of so careful literary habits, that we believe his first copy was not likely to receive really important modification in re-touching. The worst we can say of the book is that there is too little of it—that we are inclined, when we reach the last page, to say, "Flow on thou shining river; speak on thou sincere and eloquent voice." What there is of it is thoroughly good, and it is especially to be commended at this time, when all thoughtful men are looking with earnest and somewhat apprehensive attention upon the course of events in France. Mr. Macdonell was so enthusiastic in his admiration for the French, that Frenchmen may be expected to listen to his counsel. Confident that the Republic is exposed to no serious peril from the assailants of property, he believed that the Republicans might bring danger on their cause by attacking the Church. His advice, apparently, would have been to leave the Church quite alone. This may prove impossible, if the Church insists, as under Ultramontane influence it too probably will, upon interfering in purely civil matters—upon defying, for example, and attempting to defeat, civil ordinances on the subject of marriage and divorce; but we agree with Mr. Macdonell, at least to the extent of holding that it would be a grievous misfortune to the French Republic, inevitably entailing strife and weakness, if she should assume an attitude towards the clerical party that could, with any fair show of reason, be called persecuting.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND FROM 1876 TO 1880.*

THIS book originated in letters addressed by the writer to that most honest, plucky, and ably-conducted daily paper, the *Darlington Northern Echo*. Various important additions have swollen the letters into a portly volume of upwards of 400 pages, to which Mr. J. A. Froude has prefixed an admirable and highly commendatory preface. Though the writer only gives initials, we are violating no secret when we say that "O. K." is the sister of one Russian general and wife of another, and sister-in-law of the late Russian Ambassador at Vienna. She is a lady whose love and admiration for England are only less strong than her affection and hope for her Fatherland, and who has won the esteem and confidence of all who have had the pleasure and honour of her acquaintance. Her interest in the great questions to which her book is devoted was intensified, if it did not originate, through the death of her brother, Colonel Nicolas Kireeff, the first Russian volunteer who was killed during the struggle between Servia and Turkey in 1876.

A lady moving in the higher circles of English society during the last few years needed no little moral courage to write as "O. K." has done; for our superfluous aristocrats, with their various press organs—such as the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the so-called society journals—have not shrunk from the cowardly meanness of throwing out hints and insinuations detrimental to the character of any who lacked sympathy with their godless Jingoism. But how can people whose highest ambition is to be talked about for such things as their grand dresses be expected to understand a woman whose passion is the ideal—intellectually, socially, politically?

By way of giving a general estimate of the book, we cannot do better than quote a passage from Mr. Froude's preface:—

The object of this book is to exhibit our own conduct to us, during the past four years, as it appears to Russian eyes. If we disclaim the portrait we shall still gain something by looking at it, and some few of us may be led to reflect that, if Russia is mistaken in her judgment of England, we may be ourselves as much mistaken in our judgment of Russia. As to execution and workmanship, no foreigner who has

* Russia and England from 1876 to 1880: a Protest and an Appeal. By O. K. With a Preface by J. A. Froude, M.A. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1880.

* France since the First Empire. By James Macdonell. Edited by his Wife. Macmillan and Co.

attempted to write in the English language has ever, to my knowledge, shown more effective command of it. "O. K." plays with our most complicated idioms, and turns and twists and points her sarcasms with a skill which many an accomplished English authoress might despair of imitating. She seems to have read every book that has been written and every notable speech which has been uttered on the Eastern question for the last half-century. Far from bearing us ill will, she desires nothing so much as a hearty alliance between her country and ours.

If Mr. Froude's words needed any endorsement, we should heartily endorse them. The range of the writer's reading is something very remarkable. Her style combines French piquancy, brightness, and sparkle with English elasticity and massiveness; and though there may, perhaps, be here and there a little of the *couleur de rose* in her estimate of Russia, it is due rather to an affection with which every patriot must sympathise than to the untruth of a mere political advocate. The chief defect of the work is lack of unity—a defect due to the mode in which it originated.

"O. K.'s" theme is, "Why need Russia and England be foes? Why not friends?" And in dealing with this theme she runs up and down the whole gamut of the misapprehensions and prejudices by which the Jingo and even, to some extent, the non-Jingo mind of England has been for so long possessed, and one of whose great fosterers was the late Mr. Urquhart, of Russo-phobic notoriety. We shall only be able to refer very briefly to one or two of the points which are taken up. "We free-born Englishmen friends with a despotism like Russia," shriek some of our swaggers. Well, "O. K." has not a few words for even these elect individuals. On the question of autocracy she says:—

Anarchy was the besetting sin of the Slavs. Russia passed through a frightful experience before she learned the necessity of creating that strong central power to which she owes her national existence and the progress of her civilisation. . . . Some people define Russian autocracy as a dictatorship *en permanence*. Granted. Nothing but a dictatorship could have saved Russia from her foes. Founded to rescue Europe from Asia and Christendom from the Moslem invasion, it will nothave completed its task until the Sultan ceases to rule in Europe, and the last results of the Tartar conquest have been obliterated."

"But what about Siberia?" asks our Englishman. As to this matter, "O. K." quotes the testimony of a witness writing in Mr. Cowen's organ, the *Newcastle Chronicle*:—

Captain Wiggins has had many opportunities during his visits of thoroughly studying the system of exile from other parts of the Russian empire, which is such a prominent subject in connection with Siberia, and like others who have personally investigated it he has arrived at conclusions very different from those popularly entertained. The captain declares that not one-third of these time-servile exiles elect to make the return journey to their former homes; they find that life is easier and pleasanter in the land to which they have been forcibly sent, and they end by becoming free settlers in the country of their adoption. Desperate criminals only are sent to labour in the quicksilver mines, and for these there is a specially severe discipline provided, and horrors, without doubt, exist.

And, as she adds, "Russians have often been told stories of horror of the chain-gang and the lash at the Antipodes, which rival even the worst your libellers have invented about our quicksilver mines."

"At any rate, there is no excuse to be pleaded for the Russian treatment of Poland!" another will urge. "O. K." has a good deal to say on this delicate subject, and we confess that much that she urges is to the point. "We can never understand," says she, "why you should be so horrified with Russia for taking one share of partitioned Poland, while England never seems ashamed of having conquered Ireland by the sword." Further, "It seems to a Russian somewhat strange that of the three Powers which divided Poland your wrath is entirely expended upon the one which had the best historical justification for her action, whilst the worst of the partitioning Powers (Austria) is the special favourite of English Conservatives?" And again:—

Despite Polish legends and Irish grievances, both Poland and Ireland are getting on tolerably well under the respective heels of the Muscovite and Saxon. As to Poland, let me, as usual, revert to English testimony, for I carefully avoid quoting our own lost it should be said we are acting as judges in our own case. Mr. William Mather, of Salford, returning home in May, 1878, from a lengthened tour in Russia, wrote as follows:—"Poland is now one of the most prosperous and rapidly-developing parts of the Empire. This I know to be a fact. In all business and industrial pursuits Poland is developing more soundly than any other part of Russia." And recent reports of your consuls tell us that "the country is becoming rich and prosperous beyond all expectation."

The writer further makes and substantiates the astounding assertion that "if the Poles have not a natural Government of their own, it is to some extent due to English diplomacy."

"But Russia is surely the consistent antagonist of liberty and the hereditary foe of England, besides having a constant hankering after India;—that surely no one can doubt," cry the masses. These seem to most Englishmen very plausible charges, and yet we assure our readers that "O. K." adduces a pretty long series of transactions in which Russia has co-operated with England, and even acted against England, in the cause of freedom; and, alas! too, evidence is adduced that we who so much prize our liberty at home have not always

been equally anxious to secure it for other peoples—unless it happened to be in our interest. History shows further that from a very early period Russia has generally been anxious to be on friendly terms with England. And as regards India we thoroughly deserve twitting, as "O. K." twits us in the following passage:—

The menace to your Indian realm exists only in the imagination of those who fancy that it is but a stone's-throw from the banks of the Oxus to the southern slopes of the Himalaya. In Russia we cannot understand why Englishmen should permit a dread of Russian power to colour all the speeches of your Conservative politicians, and to bias the policy of your ministry. We know too much of the power of England to accept such a compliment as quite serious. We see that England annexes new territories every year with a facility which betrays to foreigners little evidence of reluctance on her part to extend the boundaries of her Empire. We know that she is all powerful at sea, and her financial position is first-class. Russia, on the other hand, is not wealthy. She is only morally rich, which, according to old-fashioned Russian views, is not altogether to be despised. But that moral wealth can neither threaten India nor annex Great Britain. Why, then, this irrational panic, which haunts the imagination of what used to be the most self-confident, self-reliant, and fearless race in the world? If I were an Englishman I should blush for shame if I entertained this coward fear of any Power on earth.

Well hit, "O. K."! Ashamed, too, a good many of us do feel at the scares constantly got up by our aristocratic Sir Andrew Aguecheeks.

We will conclude with quoting a rich anecdote, illustrating how ignorance may become the mother of national frenzy:—

Russia has repeatedly approached Constantinople. She has never entered it. The only entrance with which we have been credited was due to English ignorance of the French language. While the discussion of Mr. Forster's amendment, in the House of Commons, hostile to the six millions war vote, was proceeding, Count Schouvaloff, talking to a lady at an evening party in London, observed in passing, "Oh, mon Dieu! quant à Constantinople, nous sommes dedans," a colloquial French expression, meaning, "We have been taken in or deceived." It passed from mouth to mouth, and was construed as a positive announcement by the Russian Ambassador that our army had entered Constantinople.

Next morning several London papers appeared with excited articles commencing, "Nous sommes dedans." The Russians are in Constantinople—such was the categorical declaration of Count Schouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador! And then followed the usual inflammatory nonsense concerning Russian "perfidy" and Muscovite "greed," of which the London press always keeps so large a quantity in stock; and whilst Count Schouvaloff, with difficulty preserving his gravity, was endeavouring to explain French phrases to English Ministers, Sir A. Layard's misleading telegrams about the alleged advance of Russian troops in Constantinople, seemed to the masses to confirm the English interpretation of "Nous sommes dedans," and in the explosion of excitement which followed, Mr. Forster's amendment was withdrawn.

Behold how history is made—when Jingoism is rampant!

The Gentle Life Series. (Sampson Low, Son, and Co.) "The Gentle Life Series" now forms a compact and varied little library. There are essays on conduct and manners, essays on more material points of morals, essays on English authors with extract and anecdote, essays on biography, but all has the obtaining note of quaint, high-toned, worldly wisdom, of the kind made familiar to us by the *Spectator* of Addison, and the *Tatler* of Dr. Johnson. Its main element is a gentle, genial gregariousness; it aims to make men and women better by making them at once more kindly and easily pleased. "A Man's Thoughts" are not so nicely touched as the First Series of the "Gentle Life" itself. Montaigne's essays are most suitable to such a series; but we are not quite so sure of Mr. Gibson Craig's "Half-length Portraits." However time is the only sure test in such matters. "The Silent Hour," for Sunday reading, contains much quaint reflection and refined moralising. The publishers have certainly made beautiful books, neat and light for the hand, with their thin boards, which, readily bending, cause them to keep a good appearance in spite of many crushings.

Sonnets and Songs. By EMILY PFEIFFER. New Edition. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.) Mrs. Pfeiffer has shown distinct lyrical faculty, and has produced a few pieces, which are real additions to poetic literature. But she is very unequal, and whenever she endeavours consciously to gain a point in respect of mere form she almost invariably fails, as we think. The sonnet, therefore, is not likely to be her native element, nor is it. She always writes well, but many of these sonnets too directly tell of the process. She is apt, too apt, to force monosyllables into dissyllables to meet the exigencies of metre. There are, however, two sonnets here which are almost perfect, "To the Herald Honeysuckle," and "O ye elect of Sorrow and of Love." Of the songs and other pieces, we like best, "The Crown of Love" and "A Winter Song" in which justice is done to the prickly gorse. The book is printed on fine paper partially tinted for the type, and is really a beautiful little specimen in every way.

Grace Ashleigh's Life-Work. By Mrs. MARY D. R. BOYD. With eight full-page engravings by Robert Barnes. (Partridge and Co.) This is a tale on which the author has bestowed more pains to work up to her moral purpose than to the usual points a story teller has in view. But she writes well, and we shall remember some points about Laura and Winnie and Flossie. We could wish that the author did not use quite so much Scripture language, because in the mouths of fictitious characters it soon comes to lose a deal of its effect. The volume is very attractive in point of get-up, and would not be out of place on a drawing-room table. Mr. Barnes' drawings are very characteristic and clever.

NINETEENTH CENTURY PIONEERS. VIII.—JOHN CHILDS OF BUNGAY.

ANY one who is at all intimately acquainted with the social life of England of our country towns, will know that there is often to be found in them one man who stands out, with an acknowledged prominence, as the leading reformer. He is almost sure to be a Nonconformist, and it may be said of him that while he may occasionally lack something in "sweetness" or in flexibility, he is of moral character that cannot be questioned, and of business integrity that no one can dispute. He is one who sets his face like a rock against all local tyranny, and especially the local tyranny of the clergyman. He is known as an exposé of abuses in regard to the public administration of charities, also as privately a friend of the poor. Being a man of somewhat exceptional strength of character, he is sure to incur odium as well as inspire affection, although, possibly, the few who may dislike him, will, in their hearts, the most highly respect him.

Perhaps the best example of this class in recent times was the late John Childs of Bungay, who, however, exercised a far more than local or temporary influence. Born in Norfolk, in 1784, of parents in humble life, he had no external advantages to assist him. On the contrary. Forced into hard work at the early age of twelve, when he was apprenticed, he went through a peculiarly rough training, the results of which could be detected in a certain hardness of character and manner which attached to him throughout life. But the same process was equally favourable to the development of some of his highest virtues. He was a man of wonderfully self-reliant energy, to which he added inflexible strength and honour, and remarkable practical sagacity. At the expiration of his apprenticeship in Bungay an interval occurred, as so frequently happens, before he found his life-work. In these years he was employed in a provision warehouse, after which he became connected with a printing establishment conducted by Mr. Brightly of Bungay. And here he found something suited to his taste. Mr. Brightly had projected—as the Messrs. Chambers afterwards did at Edinburgh—cheap serial publications of a superior order, and Mr. Childs was engaged to travel throughout England and Scotland to sell them. He threw into this work an indomitable energy, which created a large and, at that period in the history of popular literature, an unprecedented demand. Press after press was added to produce folio Bibles, Universal histories, Gazetteers, and other works, which soon made the "number trade" famous throughout the kingdom. Marrying Mr. Brightly's daughter, Mr. Childs was taken into partnership, and on the death of the senior partner in 1822, he became the sole proprietor of the business, which afterwards, in connection with his son, Mr. Charles Childs, was carried on by him until his death in 1853. We need not follow the subject of our sketch through his trading history, although it was a remarkable one. It is sufficient to say that it was marked throughout by active enterprise and stainless integrity.

These characteristics Mr. Childs took also into political and ecclesiastical life. No great public movement of forty or fifty years ago was carried on without his assistance. Was it Parliamentary Reform? We would find Mr. Childs not only leading the forces in his own locality, but taken into counsel amongst the leaders in London, amongst whom he was received, and often publicly mentioned, with the respect due to his sagacity and ardour. When the Bill of 1831 was passed he celebrated the event by organising and presiding at a great banquet to the poor. It was on this occasion, as we are told, that one of his printing presses was mounted on the top of the town pump, and kept working during dinner for the production of good Reform sentiments!

Mr. Childs was one of the first to agitate against Church-rates, and was the first person who was imprisoned for their non-payment. He commenced his agitation in 1833. We can hardly understand now the scare and excitement that his opposition created. To refuse to pay a Church-rate was to provoke social and ecclesiastical excommunication. He was proceeded against in the Ecclesiastical Courts; and as he had declined to pay solely on conscientious grounds, he did not contest the matter. The result was that, in April, 1835, he was sent to gaol for the non-payment of a rate of 17s. 6d.—the animus of the ecclesiastical authorities being manifested by the endorsement on the writ, "Take no bail." It was the first death-blow to the Church-rate system. The local excitement concerning it exceeded anything previously known. Mr. Childs himself did not mind being imprisoned; but the people did. On May 27th, in the House of Commons, Sir William Foulkes presented several petitions from Norfolk, and Mr. Joseph Hume several from Suffolk on the subject; Mr. Hume stating that in Bungay there were 910 householders, and that not more than thirty had refused to sign the petition from that place. A debate—and a somewhat hot one—followed, in which Sir Fitzroy Kelly and Lord John Russell also condemned the action of the churchwardens, his lordship promising a measure dealing with the whole question. Sir Robert Peel, Dr. Lushington, and Mr. John Wilks also spoke. On the same day Lord Brougham introduced the subject in the House of Lords. While disapproving of Mr. Childs' action, he bore emphatic testimony to his pure and disinterested motives. "There is no man," he said, "more respected amongst his acquaintances. In his business as a printer he has conferred great benefit

on society by the many excellent works which he has sent forth to the public." Meanwhile, however—three days before this—the authorities, frightened at the noise themselves had made, had released Mr. Childs. His return to his own people was a triumph, such as the greatest might have envied. No proof of respect, of honour, of affection was wanting. They met him at the prison door, escorted him home, and couldn't make enough of him. No church-rate was ever after demanded of John Childs. But we may here mention that his son Charles did contest the legality of a rate in the Norwich Ecclesiastical Court, and though he was harassed by having to journey to that city on the subject more than a hundred times, travelling to and fro by road upwards of 3,000 miles, they could not wear him out, and he eventually gained the suit. From that day no rate was ever demanded of him.

We next find Mr. Childs throwing his energies into the abolition of the King's Printer's and the Bible monopolies. He was a witness on these matters before the House of Commons Committee of 1837, and furnished the principal portion of the evidence which immediately led to the cheapening of public documents and of Bibles. On this alone a whole history might be written.

It is only fitting that the effective assistance which Mr. Childs rendered to the establishment of the *Nonconformist* newspaper should receive the warmest recognition. What he did cannot all be told; it is sufficient to say that, in its early history, he was of friends the most helpful and reliable, and that without him it would have been difficult, if not impossible, successfully to have carried through, at that time, the project of establishing that journal.

What shall we further say of his aid in the Free Trade and Anti-State Church movements, and of his co-operation in everything that tended to the political and social advancement of the people? But upon these, and other points, and at the risk of repetition, we have pleasure in quoting the following, which a friend, who knew John Childs intimately, and who writes with a friend's partiality, has sent to us:—

JOHN CHILDS: A MEMORY AND A NAME.

Some reminiscence of the above do you wish for? Let us uncover our heads, and open wide the outlet of our hearts, that a full stream of living reverence may salute the remembrance. For he was worthy all. John Childs, by intelligence, perseverance, and personal service, built up and sustained to the end of his life a large, influential, and specially useful business as a printer. But this is himself in a miniature edition, and worked off with the smallest possible type. Nothing more. For the last thirty or thirty-five years of his life he was a prime factor in every movement which was entered upon to promote the mental, moral, and social improvement of his fellow-men; and whether it was expedient to promote and sustain a British school in a small town at home, or sympathise with and console in their bondage the then so-called Canadian rebels lodged in Newgate Gaol, he was the same earnest, vigorous worker for the benefit of those who needed assistance from without themselves.

His special faculty was a fine and peculiarly incisive discernment of men who came into contact or were in rapport with himself, so that he was rarely discomposed or disappointed—never disconcerted nor altogether thwarted—wherever or with whomsoever he had to treat of high and essential human interests. His eminent characteristic was inflexibility of purpose towards that which was right and true—inflexibility so genuine that it was able to endure steadfastly, with a manner rather gracious than stern. And so he did a work in his day which none had before attempted, perhaps scarcely imagined—a work whose beneficence is not only at this day unexhausted, but inexhaustible, whilst men shall live to read and be saved by the holy Word of God.

Probably his first noticeable manifestation to his fellow-men was in the character of a victim to Church-rates. He had uniformly declined to pay these, and in 1835 their advocates thought it behoved them to make an emphatic demonstration on their behalf, and John Childs was to be captured and made a public example of for the admonition of all recusants. He was conveyed to Ipswich Gaol, and the shout went through the land quickly. The number and quality of the men who paid their personal respects to him in this position, made the then governor of the gaol say, "I do believe I shall have all the Dissenters of Suffolk in this gaol;" and the sensation was strongly vibrated in Parliament. The late Jos. Hume presented a memorial, prepared by the late Mr. Ashurst, sen., and it thus stands on record in the *Nonconformist* of Aug. 17, 1853:—"His incarceration led to that agitation against Church-rates, out of which the Braintree case arose; and by a singular coincidence the final judgment in that case which pronounced the doom of the Church-rate system was concluded on the very day of John Childs' death."

But the distinctive personal work of this eminent man—the work no other man appears to have thought of or attempted, and which is yet unexhausted—was the bringing down the price of Bibles through the attack made upon the monopoly of printing the Bible. In a report read before "The Scottish Board for Bible circulation," 19th Jan., 1842, it is recorded: "The axe was laid at the root of this enormous evil only when the Bible monopoly was abolished in Scotland. That great measure was not obtained but by an amount of labour and expense which it would be hardly possible rightly to estimate. The chief honour is unquestionably due to Mr. Childs of Bungay. He and he alone made the necessary inquiries, and was in point of fact from first to last the mainspring of the entire movement." And in a letter published in the *Scottish Pilot*, January 10th, 1838, the late Jos. Hume says, "Upwards of a million and a half sterling has been paid by the Bible Society for Bibles and Testaments for distribution, and if the printing of the Bible had not been subject to the printers' monopoly, the society might have saved more than 30 per cent. over and above the balance of £435,000 which appears in favour of the public." That was John Childs' work—his specially, properly, and personally. Let us give thanks to God who lent us such a spirit at such a time, and for so many of our years.

The *Nonconformist* paper was in a great measure his doing also. In its number, new series 405, August 17, 1853, it is stated, "We know not, indeed, whether, but for the energetic assistance of John Childs, the *Nonconformist* would

have succeeded in surmounting its first difficulties; certainly, to him more than to any other individual is to be attributed the preservation of this journal through a tedious period of public probation."

Such was John Childs in actual life, and as a gracious halo crowning the whole figure, was his pure and brilliant disinterestedness. The late Joseph Hume, writing to the family after his death, frankly said: "He was the only man with whom I have been associated in public matters who never wanted anything for himself or a friend."

A sacred, a sublime tranquillity was granted him at his departure. He desired much to see a friend from London once more. At three p.m. on the day of his death, he asked, "Is he come? No. Then he cannot be here before five or six. That's a long time to live, but I will try." One of his kindred, looking on the face in the coffin, could not refrain from exclaiming, "How like the face is now to the portraits of the Duke of Wellington!"

Ejus Memoria esto perpetua.

Mr. Childs was a singular instance of a man who, while he could not make a speech of any length, yet exercised a remarkable influence upon public affairs. That was due solely to his moral force of character—a character largely inherited by his son, Mr. Charles Childs. A John Childs in every parish, and the face of all England would be changed!

SCOTTISH NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

It is satisfactory to know that there are circumstances under which even Dr. Phin would consent to the disestablishment, at least, of the Church of England. A lecturer from the Church Association appeared in Edinburgh the other day, and spoke at large of the ravages of the Ritualists. Dr. Phin was present, and spoke. To him the progress of events Rome-ward looks very serious, and he intimated that if things went on in the same line much longer, he would himself be among the number of those who would insist on the State cutting so corrupt a Church adrift. He is, first, a Protestant and, second, a State Churchman. The worst of it is, however, that this does not bring him a bit nearer to emancipation in Scotland. Ritualism is not a black beast. If we have any fault just now it is a tendency to Rationalism; and when Mr. Baird made over his great gift of £500,000 to the Church he distinctly intimated that it was to meet "the veiled infidelity" that was beginning to appear there. But Dr. Phin can put up with Rationalism. At least, I have never heard of his saying a word publicly against it, and we cannot imagine, therefore, any conditions on which he would consent to his own communion ceasing to be "the Establishment." Shall we say it is the old story? How often do we

Compound for sins we are inclined to
By damning those we have no mind to.

Mr. Cowan, before leaving, to attend to his Parliamentary duties, wrote a letter to his constituents, which has put him all right with them, and there is no likelihood now of any division in the Liberal camp in Edinburgh. We are threatened, however, with a contest in the University. It is at present (along with St. Andrew's) represented by Dr. Lyon Playfair, and a general impression prevailed that, on account of his scientific eminence, he would not be disturbed. But Sir Robert Christison, having retired from his chair, and having nothing particular to do, seems inclined to play the part of a busy body, alike in Church and State affairs. When a vacancy occurred lately in the incumbency of St. George's, he took a prominent part in the congregational meetings which were held with a view to the filling up of the cure, and now he is appearing as principal canvasser in the interest of an unknown medical practitioner, and is prepared to represent not only science and culture—but, what is no doubt reckoned of more moment—Lord Beaconsfield's views of "The Gate of India." Mr. Bickersteth is the name of this reliable doctor. We never happened to hear about him in these parts, but he belongs more directly to "the profession" than Dr. Playfair, who is merely a chemist, and there is no telling what may happen when the trial day comes. If the constituency were anything like strictly Scotch, it might have been easy enough to predict the issue. But young men from all parts come north to take their degrees, and nobody can tell with any confidence what may be the opinions of so widely-scattered an electorate.

An attempt has been made in St. Andrew's to reduce the number of candidates by means of a *plébiscite*. The result has been to show a decided interest in Mr. Stephen Williamson. But two of the Liberal candidates refused to submit to the test, and they are still free to offer themselves for election when the time comes. One of the two is Mr. Ainslie, who was in so provoking a manner set aside in Aberdeenshire. It is impossible not to feel a keen sympathy for him—all the more that he is a man whom many would be glad to see in Parliament. He has too much sense and good feeling to imperil the seat in the long run, and I have no doubt he will, in the end, retire. But it would be a great pity if he were to lose the chance of the General Election, and I hope some other constituency will turn their eyes toward him. He is a sound, able, and accomplished Liberal. Are you all supplied with suitable candidates in England?

Sir James Ferguson's appointment to the Governorship of Bombay will not improve the Tory chances in

Ayrshire. His was the best name to conjure with that could be thought of, and although another man has been found ready to step into the breach, Mr. Balfour is, I dare say, not sorry that the force he has to fight has been so materially weakened. Sir Kenneth Mackenzie has accepted the invitation of the Liberals to contest Invernesshire.

During the present month a number of meetings will be held throughout the country to celebrate the centenary of Dr. Chalmers. Naturally, these meetings are being promoted chiefly by members of the free churches. But representatives of other denominations are showing a willingness to take part, and you will notice that the Edinburgh demonstration was countenanced not only by Lord Moncreiff, Principal Rainy, and others of the Free Church, but by Dr. Cairns (United Presbyterian), Dr. William Chalmers (English Presbyterian), Dr. Watts (Irish Presbyterian), and Dr. Lindsay Alexander (Congregational).

The proceedings in the Free Church Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow, with reference to Professors Davidson and Candlish, have had a very disturbing influence on the denomination. A very general conviction prevails that these proceedings have been injudicious, because quite inopportune; but the mischief has been done, and the feeling of distrust in the colleges has been awakened. It is very aggravating to an intensely practical organisation like the Free Church to be turned into a debating club for the discussion of merely speculative questions. The General Assembly is being looked forward to with serious anxiety, for whatever resolution is then come to—whether to stand still or go forward—a sensible shock will be given to the system.

Dr. Walter Smith has been causing some stir among us by a truculent attack upon John Newton. He was lecturing on Cowper, and by way of exalting the poet, he argues that he would have become a much greater man if he had not been heavily weighted by his Evangelicalism. That made him have a keen sense of sin and narrow thoughts of God, and for both he was in a great measure indebted to Newton, whom Dr. Smith described as a pious slave-trader, who was often on his knees in the cabin while the poor blacks whom he had kidnapped were groaning in the hold. The lecturer delivered his kicks with a heartiness which showed how bitterly he felt. He has since been shown that his dates were all wrong, and that he had no cause for his remarks.

THE ALLEGED APPARITIONS AND MIRACLES IN IRELAND.

THE reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary on the Continent have not been without their influence on the lively imaginations of Romanists in Ireland. On the 21st of August last, an elderly woman who officiates as housekeeper to Archdeacon Cavanagh, of Knock, about six miles from Claremorris, county Mayo, "asked leave to visit a friend, and remained out unusually late." She returned at about a quarter past eight o'clock, "in a very excited state, exclaiming, 'Oh, your reverence, the wonderful and beautiful sight. The blessed Virgin has appeared up at the chapel with St. Joseph and St. John, and we have stood looking at them this long time. Oh, the wonderful sight.'" The occurrence did not suggest to the priest the desirability of walking to the chapel, which is situate about a stone's-throw from the house, to satisfy himself upon the matter. Subsequently questioned on the subject, the housekeeper said she first saw the vision at about half-past seven o'clock, as she passed the chapel on her way to the house of a neighbour named Byrne, but although she stayed at that house half-an-hour, it is an admitted fact that she never mentioned the matter to her hostess. Returning with Mary Byrne, about a quarter past eight, they profess to have seen on the gable at the end of the chapel the appearance of three figures, identified with the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist. St. John, who wore a mitre, was "holding a mass book, or book of Gospels, in his left hand." In company with a further reinforcement from the Byrne family, she continued looking, and saw an altar. A cross was one feature in the vision, but there is a contradiction of testimony as to its position. To Mary McLoughlin it appeared "lying, not elevated." Patrick Hill saw it "standing" on the altar, but Mary and Dominick Byrne did not see the cross at all. After about ten minutes thus spent, Mary McLoughlin left the chapel; but the others think they remained until between nine and ten o'clock, when the rain came, and they went away. Hill says the figures "did not move, but lights kept playing about the wall;" "they were not steady; they seemed as if they used to come nearer and then retire again, or to go in and out through the gable." On a subsequent occasion two policemen saw the end of the church covered with "a rosy sort of brightness, through which what seemed to be stars appeared," all round about being dark. No figures were seen by either of these; "but some women who were praying there declared that they beheld the blessed Virgin, and one went nearly frantic in consequence." Upon the 8th of October, Archbishop McHale instituted some inquiries upon the matter; but no public intimation was given through the press before the close of the year. On the night of the 6th of January, being the Eve of the Epiphany, Miss Anderson, teacher of the female National School, "expecting to see something," went with her assistant to the chapel field, and about half-an-hour before midnight saw a "row of lights along the wall. The lights strayed frequently, and would fade slowly till they got very dim, and then they brightened up again; but they never got very bright. They all faded together, not one before the other." These appearances continued for about two and a half hours; the only figure spoken of was a small one of the Virgin, about a foot and a half in height. On the night of the 12th of February Archdeacon Cavanagh declares that he saw a most brilliant star outside the

gable. It lit up the whole place. It came and struck against the spot where the apparition of the Blessed Virgin was seen, and flashed with the quickness of lightning. He adds:—"I have frequently of late, about eight or nine at night, seen a golden light floating about the gable with stars and brilliant lights flashing through it, but I never saw anything so dazzling as that one star last night." Some naturalist has suggested as an explanation of this vision the flittings of certain insects which at night present a phosphorescent appearance. Father Cavanagh, who now regards as a "Divine manifestation" the apparition to which he paid so little attention when first reported to him by his housekeeper, consoles himself with the thought that it is better that the testimony on the subject should "come through the simple faithful, and not through the priests."

These reputed marvels having been noised abroad, miraculous cures have been ascribed as the result of visits to the chapel, or of drinking water in which some of the cement from its walls had been diluted, and numerous visitors having been attracted to the spot, a lively trade in articles of devotion is carried on; inside the chapel a box has been placed for offerings. The result of the rumours which have been spread upon the subject is that not only are lodgings in the few houses of the village at a premium, but Claremorris and Ballyhannis are reaping substantial advantages. Hotel-keepers and car-owners are doing a brisk trade, and any doubts which might have the effect of arresting the flow of visitors are sternly discountenanced. Most of the alleged cures, it is found on inquiry, have been performed upon persons at a distance, who have left only such vague addresses as Meath, Dublin, &c. "The lame and deformed who are known residents of Claremorris go out to Knock Chapel, perform the prescribed devotions, and apply the healing cement, but they return day after day uncured." A receptacle five feet long, between three and four feet wide, and about three feet high, has been established for crutches and sticks supposed to have been discarded by those on whom cures have been wrought.

A special correspondent of the *Daily News* has been giving attention to the alleged cases of cure. Miss Burke, of Currleigh, who had been long an invalid, had some water from the chapel sent to her, and declared herself better; she resolved to attend the chapel, was carried in, prayed before the altar, and returned to the carriage with no other assistance than that afforded by her mother's arm. Instead of a miraculous cure, this ultimately proved to be only a flicker of strength before dissolution; she died a few days afterwards. A boy named Scott was reported to have been cured, by a visit to the chapel, of hip disease, which he had had for nine years, and it is the fact that he took a crutch to Knock, and came away without it. But on further investigation it transpired that there had been a turn in the disease about four years ago, when a number of small bones forced their way out, since which he has been gradually getting stronger; for the last two years he has been working at the trade of a shoemaker. Mr. Flynn, a Roman Catholic gentleman, who resides in the immediate neighbourhood, expressed the opinion that Scott might have thrown away the crutches a couple of years ago. He still requires a stick when walking. Some partially blind persons professed to have had their sight somewhat improved; but corroborative evidence that their condition was worse before the visit to the chapel than afterwards is lacking. More than three weeks ago, a boy who had been blind from his youth, declared that "he thought he could see candles burning on the altar," but no further testimony is procurable of his further restoration to sight. Amongst the published cures is that of Miss Delia Gordon, daughter of Mr. P. J. Gordon, of Claremorris, who "suffered intensely from attacks of violent pain in her left ear," and who after her mother had applied to the ear a piece of cement, and made the sign of the cross, declared that the pain had left her. Mr. P. J. Gordon appears to be a car-owner, who advertises his willingness to provide cars to convey visitors from Claremorris to Knock. Much stress is laid upon the case of a young man named George Culhane, in whose throat there was a formation, described as a polypus, which was thrown up, after he had drank water in which some of the chapel cement had been placed; and the list of marvels is swelled with cures of that very fitful complaint, toothache. Impartial investigation directed to that purpose has failed to discover trustworthy evidence of one cure which has any right to be regarded as miraculous; but the victims of an ignorant superstition, with the connivance of their ecclesiastical guides, are still permitted to grovel in the mud in the neighbourhood of the chapel, to treasure up as health-giving amulets scraps of cement from the walls, and even to contend with each other for the rain-water which is supposed to have gathered virtue from contact with the roof!

SPRING.

Out of the frozen wilderness advancing,
Like a starv'd wolf, the year comes lean and slow,
While the unlock'd rivulet begins to flow,
And chatters of blue skies, and flowers, and dancing.
Faint sunbeams come and go, like angels glancing
Through the quick hawthorn, where the primrose sweet
Looks as if dropp'd from heaven with love to greet.
A sorrowful lone footstep that way chancing.
Life seems to come with slow, reluctant tread,
As if unwilling to stray far from home,
To mingle with the dying and the dead,
Amid this dreary sepulchre to roam.
Yet, smiling on the threshold of despair,
Stands Hope, like that sweet primrose blooming there.

W. K.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THE Ministerial resolutions dealing with Obstruction have become Standing Orders, after a debate which brought into a strong light the fatal weakness of the Obstruction forces as at present constituted. The way of the Government was considerably smoothed by the accidental relations of the two great parties who severally represent Her Majesty's Government and Her Majesty's Opposition. There is no question that when the Session opened it was part of the deliberate plan of the Government to "rush" the dissolution at a particular moment when they should have involved the Liberal leaders in the colourable charge of complicity with the Home Rulers. The first indication of this attempt was supplied in the Premier's famous allusion on the opening night, when he denounced any who favoured Home Rule as traitors to their country. The plot was further developed, thanks to the adventitious circumstances of the Liverpool election, but received a check by the firm attitude taken up by the Liberal Members, and the straightforward disclaimer of Lord Hartington. An attempt to bring things to a crisis was determined upon ten days ago, when, after fencing with Obstruction through many Sessions, the Government at last determined to put their foot down and stamp it out. It was anticipated that this course would be followed by results only too familiar. Mr. Biggar and Mr. O'Donnell, it was calculated, would strain to the utmost the forms of Parliamentary debate, and it was not unreasonably thought that at some period of the controversy the Liberals would step in and interpose between the too high-handed action of the Government and the rights of a minority.

This calculation was defeated by the wariness of the Liberals. Like the lover of Lady Clara Vere de Vere, they saw the plot, and they retired. Their position was defined by Lord Hartington at the outset. The duty of dealing with the rules of debate is peculiarly one for the Government; they are supposed to know exactly what is wanted, and upon their own responsibility they act. This was a principle Lord Hartington, speaking for himself and the Opposition, was prepared scrupulously to respect; but he was not prepared to push it too far, and to sit silent and sullen whilst the Ministry tinkered the constitution. He would offer suggestions where he saw possibilities of improvement, but if those were not accepted by the Government, he would not push them to a division or vote against the Ministry. This clear position was further defined and enforced by Mr. Gladstone, whose speech, graceful in form of oratory and unusually conciliatory in tone, received the unwonted meed of applause from the Conservative benches.

As the Liberal programme was thus set forth, so it was consistently pursued. All sections seated to the left of the Speaker were alive to the Ministerial plot, and were determined to spoil it. Even to the last the Ministerial journals clung to the fond hope that the Opposition might be "dished," and with great avidity they seized upon an amendment of which Mr. Dillwyn had given notice, and triumphantly pointed to it as evidence that if the conduct of official Liberalism was unimpeachable, still the Radicals showed the cloven foot. Forthwith Mr. Dillwyn took steps to make it clear that he had in no wise opposed the first resolution dealing directly with Obstruction, but had merely suggested a variation in the form of the second. Like other Liberals, however, he was content with formulating his opinion, and did not press it to a division. As a matter of fact, the only serious opposition with which the Government were met came from their own side. Mr. Sampson Lloyd moved, and Mr. Hanbury seconded, an amendment, which, if carried, would have proved fatal to the resolutions. Influence was speedily brought to bear upon the Member for Plymouth, and within an hour of his having moved his amendment nothing could exceed his anxiety to be allowed to withdraw it. It was ludicrous to find him rising whenever an opportunity occurred, and proposing to withdraw. Mr. Biggar sat and watched him as a cat might watch a mouse or a spider a fly, and, whenever he rose was straightway down upon him with a negative. This, though uttered by but a single voice, is peremptory against an amendment being withdrawn before being put to the test of a division.

But though Mr. Biggar might thus plague the enemy, neither he nor his confrères could stop, or even seriously delay, the inevitable progress of the resolutions. It was in this impotence that appeared the fatal flaw in Obstruction as at present constituted. It is nothing more nor less than the absence of Mr. Parnell. Without the Member for Meath, Obstruction is a mere diversion, a temporary aberration of the rules of business debate. Not only is Mr. Parnell's own force of resistance immense, but he has the power of exciting resistance in others. When he has been in his place, his own share of obstruction has been in physical measurement, in the proportion that Benjamin's lot held towards that of his brethren. He was not only more physically tireless, but was intellectually more able, than any of his assistants. His resources never failed; and it came to pass that severely polishing his style on the patience of the House, he had achieved the position of being one of the best debaters in committee. Now that he is away, Mr. Biggar, Mr. O'Donnell, and the new recruit Mr. Finigan, do their best to carry on his great work. But they fall away at critical moments. There is nothing like cohesion among them, and that determinate and well-considered plan, evidence of which was momentarily clear in the Obstruction of former Sessions, has been wholly absent this year. For very shame the triumvirate insisted upon carrying the debate over last Saturday. It was something to impose

upon the Government in the House the inconvenience of a Saturday sitting. But this was a very pale shadow of sittings that have taken place in former and, for Mr. Biggar, happier years.

At the very outset there was a display of fatal disunion among the party. Mr. Callan, who had just returned to his Parliamentary duties after too brief an absence, observed with growing displeasure Mr. O'Donnell's evident intention of constituting himself leader of the party of discontent. That, as Major O'Gorman said, when the proposal to close public-houses on Sunday in Ireland first came before the House—that is a matter he never will stand. Accordingly he took an opportunity of "going for" Mr. O'Donnell, who, he bitterly said, had been constituted leader of the party by Mr. Finigan. It was a touching sight to see Mr. Biggar arise and attempt to create a diversion by drawing the House off on another scent. Was it, Mr. Biggar invited the Speaker to state, in order for one hon. Member to accuse another of Obstruction? This remark was decidedly irrelevant; but it furnished an opportunity for Mr. Callan and Mr. O'Donnell to reflect how unwise it was thus to quarrel in the face of the enemy.

On Saturday night, just before seven o'clock (by a happy coincidence, in time for dinner), the Obstruction resolutions were agreed to, and on Monday the House met with a sense of relief and a consciousness that it was about to enter upon a new career, in which Mr. Biggar should cease from troubling and the Chancellor of the Exchequer be at rest. Oddly enough, but without any indebtedness to the new rules, it so happened that the House achieved an amount of business, unparalleled certainly in the history of the present Parliament. The sitting had been devoted to the Army Estimates and it was anticipated that, in accordance with practice, the Minister for War might induce the Committee to grant the first vote, which regulates the number of men in the army. Colonel Stanley made a speech which, without intentional irony, gallant colonels on both sides characterised as "clear and lucid." To be frank, it was a sadly-disjointed conversation on a medley of circumstances, from which only experts might gather desired information. Whether overwhelmed by the mass of words, or from lack of something to say, the few other colonels who remained to hear the Minister for War were unusually brief, and a debate which can scarcely be said to have lived at any time passively died at ten o'clock. Then the customary vote was put, and, being agreed to, Mr. Raikes proceeded at a great rate to rattle off other votes. Encouraged by his success, he went on, and before the Committee quite knew where it had been it had voted fifteen millions sterling for the services of the army in the coming year.

The halcyon condition of affairs established on Monday night was disturbed on Tuesday by one of those incidents which operate so disadvantageously on the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Grissell, summoned last Session to answer for a breach of privilege, who then escaped to Boulogne, and circumspectly gave himself up a few hours before the prorogation, was once more brought under the notice of the House. The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved that he should be brought to the Bar and reprimanded by the Speaker. But this inadequate conclusion of a ridiculous business was strongly resented by the House—so strongly that the Chancellor consented to an amendment of his resolution, moved by Mr. Rylands and supported by the whole House. After this a few members discussed for some hours the question of the Game Laws, whose abolition Mr. Peter Taylor called for in a temperate, but unanswerable speech—unanswerable, at least, by argument, but triumphantly answered by a majority of country gentlemen. But their votes on the motion of the hon. Member for Leicester by no means ended the matter. His resolution in favour of the entire abolition of the Game Laws having been rejected by a majority of 73 (160 to 87), Sir W. Barttelot's amendment—"That it is not now expedient to deal with the question of the Game Laws"—became the substantive motion. The temptation was great to a man of Sir W. Harcourt's quickness and astuteness, and he forthwith moved to omit the word "not." Curiously enough, he was seconded by Mr. Pell, who represents South Leicestershire, and is thought to go in for the farmers' interests, on the ground that the Game Laws do require amendment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, taken by surprise, affected that the whole thing was a joke; but, having sufficiently prolonged his speech, the Ministerial benches began to fill, and the Government were saved—though barely—from a sudden defeat. The amendment was rejected by the narrow majority of 16 in a House of 254 members. Then Mr. Cross—it being past midnight—proceeded to unfold his scheme for buying up the stock of all the metropolitan water companies, and vesting their interests—some twenty-eight millions—in trust for the benefit of the entire population of London.

MR. RICHARD'S MOTION ON ARMAMENTS.—The following resolution was adopted at the recent quarterly meeting of the Keighley Wesleyan Local Preachers Association:—"This meeting expresses its deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Henry Richard for his great exertions in the cause of universal peace, continued through many years, and its fervent hope that the resolution which the honourable Member intends to move in Parliament will draw the serious attention of the country and continental nations to the ruinous and unchristian expenditure of life and treasure occasioned by the warlike spirit of recent times." At Sheffield, in most if not all the Congregational and Baptist Churches, special sermons on "Christianity and the Armed Condition of Europe" were preached by previous arrangement on Sunday, the 15th ult. Petitions in support of Mr. Richard's motion were afterwards signed by the congregations.

The Hibbert Lecture, 1880.

A COURSE of FOUR LECTURES on "THE INFLUENCE of the INSTITUTIONS, THOUGHT, and CULTURE of HOME on CHRISTIANITY, and the DEVELOPMENT of the CATHOLIC CHURCH," will be delivered in the French language, by Monsieur Ernest Renan, at ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LANGHAM-PLACE, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon on the following days, viz.—TUESDAY, 6th April; FRIDAY, 9th April; TUESDAY, 13th April; WEDNESDAY, 14th April. Admission to the course of Lectures will be by ticket without payment. Persons desirous of attending the lectures are requested to send their names and addresses to Messrs. Williams and Norgate, 14, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, W.C., not later than March 20, and as soon as possible after that date tickets will be issued to as many persons as the Hall will accommodate.

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CONTENTS OF No. X.

LEADING ARTICLES:—	PAGE
Mr. Gladstone and Nonconformists	231
Wasted Religious Accommodation	231
Ecclesiastical Bills in Parliament	232
The Russian Dictator	240
Parliamentary Obstruction	241
Coffee Taverns and Music Halls	241
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
Electoral Attitude of Nonconformists	233
The Temperance Question and the General Election	233
The Liberal Outlook	233
The Inquirer and Dr. Wardlaw	233
Bechuanaland	234
Women and the Cambridge Degrees	235
LITERATURE:—	
Mr. Jas. Macdonell on France	236
Russia and England	236
Brief Notices	237
MISCELLANEOUS:—	
Nineteenth Century Pioneers—John Childs	237
Sketches from the Gallery	239
Spring	239
Women and the Learned Professions	243
Mr. Illingworth on Disestablishment	243
Mr. Dale's Lectures at Union Chapel	244
The Reading Lectures on Nonconformity	245
London Congregational Chapel Building Society	245
Edinburgh and Airedale Colleges	246
Election Intelligence	246
Epitome of News	246
News of the Free Churches	248

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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1880.

THE RUSSIAN DICTATOR.

NEVER surely did monarch celebrate so sad a jubilee as the CZAR celebrated on Tuesday last at St. Petersburg. A besieged nation, a hunted CZAR, and a terrible conspiracy striking at the very foundations of society, and threatening to shatter them, are strange materials out of which to compound a festival. And yet no better were within reach of the Government of All the Russias wherewith to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of ALEXANDER II.'s accession to the throne. We say the Government because the people were not at all in question. All freedom of action is suspended throughout the Empire; much may be thought, but nothing can be said or done without the express permission of the Dictator; so that the festival is the festival of the authorities. Theirs is the only initiative through the vast dominions which bow to the sceptre of their despot, and even the manifestations of popular enthusiasm are necessarily tainted with the suspicion that it is all a cleverly-arranged tableau. This constitutes the dreariness of the desert called Russian society. It is monotonous as the salt deserts round the shores of the Caspian. There is but one free voice in it which has any ring of independence, the voice of the autocrat; and his voice sounds drearily like a lamentation, as, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession, his silver wedding-day as a monarch, he calls his people round him to rejoice.

The report which, for the honour of the CZAR, we found it so hard to credit last week, turns out to be the true one. The autocrat has thought only of repression. All the ordinary operations of Government are suspended throughout the Empire. One absolute Dictator is appointed who is the irresponsible master of every man and every institution in Russia, rendering his account only to the CZAR, and the Empire is placed in a state of siege. The EMPEROR has, in fact, declared war against the whole people. The language is really not too strong. The will of one man is absolute in Russia; none can question a decision of General LORIS MELIKOFF, or call him to account. The lowest and the highest, the CZAR only excepted, are bound to pay him prompt and unquestioning obedience; and all the force of the Empire is placed at his disposal to carry out his decrees. The Dictator, no doubt, has been wisely chosen. He is a thoroughly able man, and by no means naturally tyrannical or brutal; but he is stern as Fate where he thinks that he has treason to deal with, and, soldier-like,

he takes the straightest and shortest path to his end. But he is an Armenian, and a comparatively unknown man; and though his energy and ability are unquestionable, how much dead weight of resistance to his measures will he meet with on every hand from those who profess to assist him, and how many eminent Russian administrators who have been passed over, will take secret delight in frustrating his best laid plans, and counterworking in secret his scheme for the autocratic salvation of the Empire. It seems simply childish to suppose that a vast system of administrative corruption, which spreads like a upas over the whole Empire, and everywhere blights it, can be cured, or even permanently mended by one man's will and energy, however determined and able he may be. A Dictator did good service of old at critical moments in the history of an individual city, where the field of action was comparatively limited, and one man's will could make itself felt through the whole extent of the body politic, and could gather up the whole force of the community against external foes. But what can one man do in Russia which stretches through two continents, or even in Russia in Europe, which stretches over one? The thing is utterly beyond the grasp of one man's hand, unless he be ubiquitous and can see into everything with his own eyes. The corruption in the administrative system in Russia is too deep-seated and too universal for any measure, however drastic, to cure. Nothing can cure it but publicity, and that must work on it long years before it will begin to find that it cannot live in the full blaze of the light of day. A single will is powerless to deal with it, as the CZAR has learnt to his sorrow and shame.

And yet it is probable that the CZAR is one of the best men in his dominions, and is devoted to what he conceives to be the good of his people. This consciousness makes it seem so sad and strange to him that he should be the object of this persistent and terrible persecution, that he should not be safe even in his own palace from the machinations of unseen but ubiquitous and determined foes. It is part of the irony of fate, as other sovereigns of excellent personal character, who have had to expiate the crimes of a dynasty or of a system of government, have been taught by sharp lessons before the CZAR. At the same time we must demur to the statement which has been made more than once in the journals which have written on this Russian question, that the CZAR is the very model of a benevolent despot. A despot must have back bone, or else his very goodness may easily be a source of sorrow and disappointment to his people; and that is just what the CZAR wants. He is full of benevolent wishes and intentions, but he lacks the force to convert them into powers. A clear eye and a firm hand are indispensable to the most benevolent despot, and a good heart will by no means, in one burdened with a despot's duties and responsibilities, supply their place. The CZAR carried through one magnificent measure of benediction to his subjects, by the emancipation of twenty millions of serfs in the early years of his reign. But it must be understood that the measure had become imperative. Russia was waiting for it, and could not move a step on the path of progress until it was accomplished. This by no means detracts from the merit of the CZAR in proclaiming the emancipation with which for ever his name will be associated. A despot of a different temper might long have delayed the measure, to the grievous detriment of the Empire. The CZAR saw what needed to be done, and had the courage and good fortune to accomplish it with but little disturbance of the commonwealth; and for this he deserves the grateful affection of his people, and would enjoy it in fuller measure, had he had the wisdom and courage to tread firmly in the path of political progress, of which that great measure ought to have been the inauguration, and for halting in which he is paying the penalty now.

A little knowledge, they say, is a dangerous thing. Still more true is it of a little liberty. The Russian Government is learning the lesson, and it will take a good deal of teaching yet. And a little liberty ought to be a dangerous thing; for man is made to pine for a great deal of it, and has the capacity to use it as he attains the full development of his powers. Despotism rulers have to be taught that the most grievous wrong that they can do to a people is to let them taste liberty, and then stay their hand, and refuse to extend it lest it should be abused. The CZAR has given his subjects as much as he thinks for their good, and from the most conscientious motives, no doubt, arrests the development of political liberty in the Empire. Meanwhile, eighty millions of Russians are pining in bondage, restless, sad, dissatisfied, not knowing their wants, but knowing that they want almost everything which makes life worth the living; and we reserve our pity and sympathy for them, and have but little of it to bestow upon the unhappy CZAR.

PARLIAMENTARY OBSTRUCTION.

THE Ministry have accomplished a remarkable feat. They have succeeded in administering a severe blow to the party of Obstruction, but they have so managed the affair that the principal advantage remains with their opponents rather than themselves. In the first place, the work has been done with such ease that the only marvel is that it has not been done before, and the reproach for the delay, of course, must rest upon the majority and its leader. For some reason or other, Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE was afraid to "grasp the nettle," and so the evil weed remained. What was worse, he made two or three feeble attempts, which resulted only in an exposure of his own weakness, and an accession of strength to the little band which was doing its utmost to bring Parliament into contempt. Three years ago it would have been said that the proceedings of Mr. PARNELL and his friends would have been impossible, that the Members of the House, to whatever party they belonged, were too proud of the institutions with which they were identified to allow the venerable "mother of Parliaments" to be brought into contempt by her own unnatural sons, and that a prompt and summary process would have ended the unworthy proceedings of a few Irish Members, whose action, as is now seen, was as little approved by their own political friends as by other sections of the House. The Obstructionists themselves have no influence or position, and most of their names would have been unknown but for the notoriety which their discreditable abuse of the freedom which Parliament, exercising a generous confidence in the gentlemanly instincts of its members, extends to all alike. Yet for three years the House has been kept at bay by a few Irishmen, who have from time to time mocked at its restraints and turned its proceedings into a jest.

We hesitate not to say that the blame for all this rests with the Ministry. Of course, the leader of the House bears the principal share of the responsibility, and he has certainly shown but little of the tact and decision necessary for dealing with such a crisis. He has been courteous and he has been firm; but, instead of uniting these qualities, he has alternated them. He has been decided, occasionally a little petulant, where he ought to have been conciliatory, and yielding when he ought to have been uncompromising. We do not care to recapitulate the various mistakes which have revealed his weakness as a leader, because we believe that many of them may be traced back to the policy which the Government had adopted towards the Home Rule party. It has only been since the Liverpool election that the Ministry have taken up such a decided position on Home Rule. We do not suggest that they ever had any real sympathy with the aims of the Irish agitators, that they meant the dismemberment of the Empire when they appointed one of their leading representatives Lord-Lieutenant of an Irish county. But unquestionably they angled for Home Rule support, and secured it in some of the most crucial divisions on their foreign policy. Mr. PLUNKET, with the characteristic bitterness of an Irish Tory, could not accept the invaluable aid which Mr. GLADSTONE had given to the Government proposals by his high-minded speech without taunting him for "an article in a well-known magazine, in which he strongly condemned the Government in connection with the matter, contending that they were the real Obstructionists." The reminder was singularly infelicitous, for Mr. GLADSTONE unquestionably was right. The time for conciliating Home Rulers is past. The two bribes already thrown out to them in grants for denominational education have not produced any permanent result. Mr. SHAW leads in the place of Mr. BUTT, and is less likely to be attracted to the Tory side. A definite and decided attitude has been taken, and it is found that the entire House, including even the more influential Home Rulers, are prepared to put down what may fairly be regarded as Obstruction. What has been done now might just as easily have been done one year or two years ago. The Ministry, and the Ministry alone, were the cause of a delay by which the public time has been frittered away, and the authority of Parliament discredited.

But the discomfiture of the Ministry has, in another aspect, been even more signal and complete. All the signs at the beginning of last week pointed to an early dissolution. It cannot be supposed that the Ministry are particularly anxious to face a discussion on the Budget, and it would not be surprising if they were to seize any favourable opportunity for appealing to the country before a Parliamentary criticism of their finance, which must necessarily be damaging. Last week it seemed as if the long-looked-for time had arrived. The party which had been elated by their escape at Liverpool, were thrown into transports of joy

by the victory at Southwark. Mr. CLARKE was the dove returning to the ark with a green leaf, which assured them that the waters of Radical violence and misrepresentation were subsiding, and that the country was with them. The *Standard*, in a short but significant paragraph, indicated that the cry was ready, and that if the Liberals would only behave as was evidently wished, an appeal would be made to the country to support a patriotic Government in putting down a miserable clique of Obstructionists, over whom the Liberal party had spread its protecting ægis. Everything appears to have been done with the view of provoking the Liberals to a party opposition, by giving to the proposal a party character. The ordinary communications between the opposing chiefs in relation to such matters were withheld; and the excuse for this departure from the precedent was so lame as to justify the suggestion that there was a party end to be attained. But if there was any such purpose, failure could not have been more complete. No Liberal was found to play the Ministerial game, and for the very obvious reason that the party of progress, having real work to do, has most reason to deprecate an unfair use of the forms of the House for purposes of delay. Hence the strongest utterances against this Parliamentary scandal came from the Opposition. How bitter the disappointment may be gathered from the attempts of the Ministerial journals to take away from the effect of Lord HARTINGTON's wise and vigorous speech. The *Telegraph* had the effrontery to talk of him as giving only a wavering support to Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE's resolution, whereas his only complaint was that it did not go far enough; and even when suggesting how it might be strengthened, his lordship distinctly and strongly intimated that whether the Government thought well to amend it or not, it would have his decided support. The *Telegraph* wrote simply as it wished things to be, and thus indirectly revealed the hope and intention of the Tories. Another cry must now be sought; for the country will not believe that Liberals are so mad as to destroy that power of Parliament which it has been their object through the whole course of our history to develop and confirm. Whigs and Radicals are one here, and the speech of Mr. SHAW—which did not receive higher commendations than it fairly deserved—proved that the wisest of the Home Rulers shared that view.

We heartily hope we have heard the last of the unworthy tactics by which Mr. PARNELL, Mr. BIGGAR, Mr. O'DONNELL, and a few more, have sought to make Parliament bow to the will of a small minority. We fully agree with Mr. SULLIVAN that in the course they have pursued, they have only gone still further on the lines so clearly marked out by members of HER MAJESTY'S Government. And yet there is a difference between them. The exposure of Mr. SULLIVAN was extremely damaging, and its facts and figures ought to be brought prominently before all the electors. It is quite possible that the former action of the SECRETARY for IRELAND, the HOME SECRETARY, and the Chairman of Committees—who has so often reproved Home Rulers for practising the very arts in which he showed himself such an adept in former days—may have suggested to Mr. PARNELL his mode of procedure. But it must be said that there is a distinction between an obstructive opposition to a particular measure, and a systematic attempt to prevent Parliament from doing any business at all. At the same time, those who have abused the forms of the House in the former case, are too far compromised to become effective censors of others who have committed the more serious error. The root of the evil in both cases is the same—an unworthy and unjust disregard of the unwritten law of Parliamentary courtesy. The transgression is more serious in the one instance than the other. So is burglary a graver offence than petty larceny; but the man who has been convicted of larceny is scarcely the best qualified to administer rebuke or chastisement to the burglar. In the meantime, both parties, Conservative obstructives like Mr. LOWTHER, and Home Rulers like Mr. BIGGAR, are alike imperilling that freedom of debate, the maintenance of which is of the first importance. The rights of a minority need to be carefully safe-guarded from any tendency to repression which the natural desire to get rid of vexatious and illegitimate obstruction may foster.

COFFEE TAVERNS AND COFFEE MUSIC HALLS.

THE leisure enjoyed by Lord DERBY, through his temporary disconnection from party ties, could hardly be put to a better use than in the encouragement of social reforms on the importance of which all parties alike are agreed. We say all parties—because, although the publicans may be right in the belief that their sectional and selfish interests

are more tenderly treated by Conservatives than by Liberals, yet the stoutest defender of the Briton's right, politically speaking, to get drunk if he pleases, would certainly allow that this right is at present used somewhat too freely. And the endeavour to substitute purer and more healthful attractions for those of the tap-room is an enterprise which must necessarily command the sympathies of all right-feeling people, quite irrespective of party preferences or sectarian leanings. In attending the annual meeting of the Coffee Tavern Company, and advocating its plan of operations, Lord DERBY gave his influence to a movement which happily stands not in need of noble patronage, but is, nevertheless, benefited by all thoughtful suggestions from the varied experiences of public men. And, as usual, sound common-sense was conspicuous in his remarks. Alluding to the objections sometimes made against "temperance by compulsion," he forcibly observed that "there is another side of the question, which, perhaps, we do not sufficiently consider; for in our great towns we are apt to have, not temperance, but intemperance on compulsion." He did not enlarge on the remark. Probably, in his social position, he could hardly know how profoundly, how cruelly true were his words. Let anyone, in passing through a thronged and squalid neighbourhood, where Coffee Taverns are yet unknown, ask himself what he would do if he were a messenger or porter, turned loose, with an allowance of sixpence, to get some refreshment, when the evening is drawing in, and weariness and darkness unite to depress the mind. Let him look round and say where he would turn in? Shall it be the solitary coffee-house kept by a broken-down publican, who has lost, or failed to get, a licence? The broken lamp with a flickering light over the door shows dirty steps, probably occupied by a slatternly girl, who in the intervals of attendance on customers sits there with a neglected baby. Within, one or two sloppy tables are flanked by forms without backs or by rickety chairs. By the feeble gaslight the stained and torn copies of *Funny Folks* or *Fun*, not to mention scandalous pennyworths, would try any but the youngest eyes. The rolls and cakes are dry and "fashionless." The butter is "oleomargarine," or whatever be the classical disguise of uncooked fat. The keeper is gloomy, his wife is a helpless sloven, and the whole appearance of things is disheartening. Repelled thence, our tired messenger has small choice left him. Of what use is the pastry-cook's, adapted mainly to the saccharine or doughy tastes of the dirty children who abound? As well might he think of the cooked fish-shop with its odorous and unappetising wares. Meantime, at almost every corner of every street, there is a glare of gas flanked by flaring windows, revealing within a scene of illuminated warmth and apparent comfort, brilliant with polished brass and gilding and many-coloured glasses. The frequent figures that pass and repass through the swinging doors are familiar, at least in dress, and manner, and custom. What wonder if our messenger goes with the tide, and his sixpence is dissolved in fiery drink? Truly, as Lord DERBY says, it is intemperance on compulsion.

Now the Coffee Tavern Company, and others like it seek to remove this reproach from our civilisation. It is strange that such a movement should be comparatively recent. But the greatest reforms look simple only after they have been accomplished. There have been many difficulties of detail to overcome in the establishment of these improved and attractive Coffee Taverns. Now, however, their future may be said to be ensured, for one very sufficient reason—they are a paying concern. They are capable of paying a dividend of ten per cent., and in Liverpool, where they have been peculiarly successful, the shares are at a premium of fifty per cent. The causes of success are obvious, and, we believe, may be pushed very much further. The British workman may, in his leisure moments, be too fond of his glass. But when at work he likes to keep his head clear and his hand steady. Now the coffee-taverns afford a place of refreshment in the intervals of labour, where attractive rooms, cheerful attendance, and excellent food are provided at a very cheap rate. Thus they make an appeal to intelligent self-interest. Now, whatever may be the weaknesses of our labouring population, there is a great deal of human nature in them. And wherever this is the case, any obvious appeal to reasonable self-interest must prevail. Great is beer; but only because it flatters that great potentate, the human stomach. Let the Coffee Tavern show that it can not only satisfy the stomach, but comfort the pocket and the conscience as well.

There is, however, one need which the Coffee Tavern can hardly meet. Having taken some pains to ascertain the facts in two of the towns where they are most successful commercially, we

find that while they supplant the beer-shop or gin-palace at the dinner-hour, they are not, as a general rule, equally attractive in the evening, when excess in drinking is most common. It is a mere commonplace to observe that drunkenness is caused not so much by liking for liquor, but by the association of drink with good fellowship and social enjoyment. Now the Coffee Taverns do not supplant the gin-palace in this respect. It is true they have, sometimes, their pianos, and their evening entertainments. But if our experience be normal, the business done in the evening is comparatively small. Plainly the gin-shop, or "free and easy" at the public-house is more attractive. It is probable that the liquor houses have yet the advantage of attaching to themselves the good talkers and singers of each neighbourhood. It is possible that the liveliness necessary to social enjoyment is more rapidly stimulated by rum and gin than by coffee. But whatever may be the difficulty it has to be overcome. Nay, it has been overcome already in some places, as, for instance, at the Lambeth Baths, where the Rev. G. N. MURPHY, by the success of his winter entertainments, has set a notable example. And it seems to us that the project of the Coffee Music Hall Company is a move in the right direction. Capital ought to command attractive arrangements, good management, and musical talent of a serviceable order. If the company confines itself to the provision of these, leaving the advocacy of particular opinions, whether on religious or social subjects, to the societies established for such ends, it will not only pay a good dividend, but go far towards beating drunkenness, immorality, and immorality out of the field.

The appointment of General LORIS MELIKOFF by the Czar as virtual Dictator over the Russian people, with powers such as have rarely been conceded to a subject, has had the effect of allaying the panic which the attempt to blow up the Winter Palace at St. Petersburg created. At all events, the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the EMPEROR's accession to the throne was observed with much pomp in the capital, and His Majesty was engaged all day in his *levée* and in receiving congratulatory addresses. Nothing occurred to mar the harmony of the festivities, the population filling the streets all day long, and enjoying the brilliant illuminations at night without any apparent thought of danger or secret conspiracies. No disturbances occurred. We have yet to hear how the new Dictator proposes to use the vast powers entrusted to him, and whether he has succeeded in permanently intimidating the Nihilists.

The House of Lords is enjoying the leisure customary at the earlier months of the Session, which generally enables it to adjourn before the dinner hour. At a short sitting on Monday the Irish Relief of Distress Bill was read a second time, after a short discussion, in which the Marquis of LANSDOWNE was the principal speaker. The noble lord described the chief causes of Irish poverty to be the labourer's want of skill, and his intemperance, and remarked that it was only on behalf of the agricultural interest of Ireland, not of England, that HER MAJESTY'S Ministers came to Parliament, though he admitted that the scheme for granting loans out of the Irish Church surplus was less objectionable than that of giving direct relief on a large scale. The almoners of the several funds are successfully engaged in relieving the prevalent destitution in the west, and in providing seed potatoes of the hardiest kind, with a view to the next season's crop. The great fear is lest there should be any clashing between the three committees—the Duchess of MARLBOROUGH's, the Dublin Mansion House, and that disbursing the contributions of the *New York Herald* Fund, which now exceeds £100,000, and has under consideration some measures for the permanent relief of the distressed districts. Irishmen have much reason to be grateful for, if they are not softened, by the world-wide and generous sympathy their distress has evoked, especially in the United States and our colonies. Australia and New Zealand have contributed more than £50,000, and Canada £20,000—a pleasing proof of the community of feeling that binds together the several members of the British Empire, and a silent rebuke of the Irish agitators who are doing their utmost to disturb it.

Sufficient is said elsewhere relative to the debates on the Government proposal for putting down Obstruction. The resistance to the new Standing Order, thanks to the conduct of the leaders of the Opposition, collapsed at the supplementary sitting on Saturday. Since then business has proceeded in the House of Commons with little hindrance; so much so, that the whole of the Army Estimates, after Colonel STANLEY's explanatory statement, were disposed of on Monday at a single sitting. After midnight on Tuesday Mr. CROSS introduced one of the chief Government measures of the Session. The Metropolis Water Bill proposes to purchase the rights of all the existing companies in London, the value of which, apart from seven millions compensation, is estimated at twenty-two millions. The companies

are to receive water stock at 3½ per cent., backed by the guarantee of the metropolitan rates as compensation. To manage the water supply of the metropolis a central body is to be created, consisting of twenty-one members; three to be paid, several others nominated, and twelve elected by the metropolitan boroughs and inhabitants north and south of the Thames not comprehended in any borough. The object of the Trust, which is to come into operation in October next, is to be the supply of wholesome water for domestic use, for watering the streets and extinguishing fires, with a constant supply at high pressure; and there is provision for a sinking fund to extinguish the debt in eighty years. The weak point of the scheme is the cumbrous machinery for carrying out the Trust, which will, no doubt, give rise to much discussion. The general impression seems to be that the proposed compensation to the water companies is too large, but this matter will probably be referred for examination to a hybrid committee.

The case of Mr. C. E. GRISSELL has been once more before the House of Commons. It may be remembered that he was declared to have committed a breach of privilege last year by corrupt proceedings in respect to a Bill before a committee—the decision of which committee he said he could control. He kept out of the way, and made himself comfortable at Boulogne until the day before the close of the Session, when he was kept in custody for a day or two, and released when Parliament was prorogued. When the House of Commons met in February, the delinquent failed to put in an appearance, and at length a notice relative to his case was put on the Order Book, and the Government felt obliged to act. On Tuesday, accordingly, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that Mr. GRISSELL be committed to the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms, and reprimanded at the Bar. At the suggestion of Mr. RYLANDS, however, the House decided that the punishment should be deferred. Mr. GRISSELL was brought up in custody at the noon sitting yesterday, and placed at the Bar. Having made a full apology for his conduct, Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE moved that he be committed to Newgate "until liberated by the House"—a proposal which met with general concurrence. Mr. GRISSELL will now expiate his "contempt of the House" in gaol, and whether his imprisonment be short or long, it has been richly deserved.

Though the reports of an early dissolution are becoming more faint, the preparations for the general election are not relaxed. Perhaps the most sensational incident of the week in this direction is the announcement that the Rev. Dr. PARKER has offered himself as a candidate for the City of London, though people cannot readily believe that it is seriously intended, and that the minister of the City Temple really aspires to add to his rôle of preacher and editor that of legislator. For the present we forbear comment on this curious phenomenon. While changes are almost daily taking place in the list of candidates, the election of Drogheda claims a moment's attention. When a vacancy took place in this small Irish borough, with a constituency of only 743, Mr. B. WHITWORTH at once resigned his seat for Kilkenny, and asked the suffrages of a town where his industrial enterprises have been carried out on a somewhat large scale. Though a Liberal favourable to a modified kind of Home Rule, he was vigorously opposed by the Nationalist party, who did their utmost to carry Mr. M'COAN, a candidate after their own heart. On Tuesday Mr. WHITWORTH gained an easy victory, receiving more than double the votes of his rival (382 to 181) and it is stated that, with one exception, he received the votes of the ministers of all denominations, while the Conservatives, "acting on a party circular," held aloof. Coupled with the fact that the successor of Mr. WHITWORTH for Kilkenny, who was returned unopposed, is a Liberal, but not a Home Ruler, the inference may perhaps be drawn that the influence of the extreme Nationalists in the constituencies is less considerable than had been thought, and that Mr. PARNELL and his adherents are palpably losing ground in Ireland.

Our French neighbours are somewhat embarrassed with a difficulty arising out of the Russian *imbroglio*. A Russian who went by the name of MEYER, but who admits that he is a person called HARTMANN, has been arrested by the Paris police, and Count ORLOFF has laid before the French Government papers to show that he was the owner of the house from which the train was laid that recently blew up the Imperial luggage-train on the Moscow railway, and demanded his extradition. The course that M. de FREYCINET and his colleagues will take is not yet decided. They have laid the matter before a committee of men learned in international law to give their opinion whether the offence is purely political, and therefore beyond their cognisance, or one to be dealt with at common law. Opinion at Paris is much divided on the subject. To surrender HARTMANN would create a great ferment amongst the advanced Republicans; to refuse the claim of the Russian Government would greatly affect the cordial relations between the two Cabinets. M. VICTOR HUGO urges that the demand should be resisted, but all the representatives of Conservative opinion advise compliance.

The German Army Bill came on for consideration in the Reichstag on Monday, and attracted a large assembly. Its object is to increase the actual military force by some 30,000 men at present, which can be greatly increased in case of emergency. In a speech of great force Count von MOLTKE supported the proposal on the grounds that Germany, being surrounded by other great States, had its frontier on every side to protect, and that the neighbouring Great Powers—

Russia and France particularly—had greatly increased their military forces since the last law on the subject in Germany had come into operation. The measure was, he said, strictly defensive. The unity they had achieved could not be maintained without sacrifices on the part of the nation, which, though necessary, he deplored. The speech of the great German tactician created a strong impression. The Bill has been referred to a large committee, and there is no doubt it will be adopted with little opposition. It is doubtful whether Prince BISMARCK will be able to take part in the debate. His health continues much impaired—so much so that Prince Hohenlohe has been recalled from Paris temporarily to occupy his position as Minister of FOREIGN AFFAIRS—a change which will, it is thought, tend to preserve pacific relations with France.

MR. BLENNERHASSETT'S MARRIAGE BILL.

HITHERTO the public has been without information as to the origin of this measure; but a little light is thrown upon the subject by the proceedings at a meeting of the English Church Union, held on the 19th February, and reported in the *Church Review*. At that meeting the chairman introduced the draught of the Marriage Law Amendment Bill, Mr. J. Theodore Dodd, barrister-at-law, of Lincoln's-inn. Respecting that gentleman the *Church Review* gives the following information:—"We may mention that though not a member of the Union, Mr. Dodd is entitled to the confidence and thanks of Churchmen. He, with Mr. Wake, fought and beat the corporation of Sheffield in their attempts to desecrate the graveyard, and also came to town to assist the City Church and Churchyard Protection Society in their efforts to preserve St. Mary-at-Hill. His most recent victory has been the compromise offered by the pew party at Sheffield, where it is determined one entire half of the old church shall be free and unappropriated."

Mr. Dodd informed the meeting that the Bill which he had draughted was the result of some resolutions come to at a meeting in his chambers, composed of persons of various and varying ideas—an Independent minister, a member of the English Church Union, and of the Church Association, being some of the component elements. The following were the three resolutions agreed to:—

1. "To relieve the clergy of the Church of England from the obligation of having anything whatever to do with the remarriage of divorced persons."
2. "To enable Nonconformist ministers and Roman Catholic priests to solemnise marriages without the presence of the Registrar."
3. "To validate certain marriages which by reason of disobedience to some Act of Parliament are legally invalid."

After referring to the subject of the first of these resolutions, and to the proposed alteration in the law of banns, he proceeded to say:—"In this country there are large numbers of people who, though not in communion with the Church of England, are yet members of the Church of Christ, and this Bill was not only to remove our grievances, but also those of Nonconformists. The day was past when Dissenters can be passed unheeded by, so under proper restrictions it was proposed that the Dissenting minister might marry without the presence and expense of the Registrar, which was felt to be a grievance by the Dissenters." After describing some of the provisions of the Bill, he said, "Some of the Dissenters desire not so much a relief for themselves as to push the Registrar into the Church. Still ninety-nine out of every hundred Churchmen would object to such an intrusion, and surely they are an important party in English society." The following odd passage occurred at the close of the speech:—"The most popular part of the proposed Bill was the extension of hours from eight a.m. to five p.m.; it would be permissive only; it would be convenient for both the upper and poorer classes of society. Two objections have been raised, and the first is that the man will come to the church drunk. If so, it is to be hoped the young lady will take warning and not marry him till he is reformed. The other one is of a more serious character, and that was with respect to the Holy Communion, but people who desire to have a marriage celebration could fix the ceremony before noon, and there was a saving clause that no priest should be compelled to marry after noon, though permitted to do so until five o'clock."

[Mr. Pye-Smith, a solicitor at Sheffield, and a Dissenter, has stated in our columns that he was consulted in the preparation of the clauses relating to Dissenters.]

Mr. Baker, a barrister, in moving a resolution in support of the Bill said:—"Surely it is high time to lay aside the fiction that the Church of England is the Church of the whole nation. We may recognise Nonconformists as fellow Englishmen, with a right to remove whatever they may consider as a stigma on their marriage. It is an unfair suggestion that the State cannot trust the Nonconformist minister while it trusts the Church clergyman. Even against their will, if it must be so, we will seek to do them justice."

Per contra, Mr. S. Rawson would leave out all reference to Dissenters, as they, having put themselves out of the pale of the Church, should suffer the pains and penalties. The Rev. T. Outram Marshall supported the resolution, on the ground that it relieved the Church of England from an intolerable burden, and that it also removed a grievance of Nonconformist Englishmen.

The resolution was then apparently carried.

The Bill has at length made its appearance, but we must defer any description of its contents until next week.

The English Church Union has just passed the following resolution:—"That this meeting of the English Church Union desires to convey the expression of its thanks to Mr. Blennerhassett for his endeavour, by his 'Marriage Law Amendment Bill,' to relieve the clergy of the Church of England from the statutory obligation imposed upon them by the Divorce Act of 1857 in regard to the re-marriage of divorced persons, and, at the same time, to record its opinion that the clause in the Bill by which marriages solemnised in the places of worship of all recognised religious bodies are placed on the same footing—as far as the presence of the Registrar is concerned—as marriages solemnised by the clergy of the Church of England, deserves the cordial support of Churchmen."

WOMEN AND THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS.

On Tuesday evening the spacious hall of New College, St. John's-wood, was well filled by a large assembly of ladies and gentlemen, who had come, as Lord Aberdare, the chairman, said, to hear the speculative opinions of the rising generation on the question, "Should women be admitted into the Learned Professions?" It was the annual public debate of the students, and excited much interest. Lord Aberdare was supported by Professors Radford Thomson, M.A.; R. A. Ridford, M.A., LL.B.; E. Johnson, M.A.; and by Dr. Newth, the Principal of the College, and Rev. William Farrar, LL.B., Secretary. In opening the proceedings, the chairman said he was very glad to accept an invitation to come to a Nonconformist College, as he was anxious to see what manner of men with regard to culture and logical training the Nonconformist students were.

The debate was then commenced by Mr. A. Capes Tarbotton in the affirmative. The opener began his paper by a brisk attack on those who "talked much about women with a big W," and who varied empty compliment by epigrams which they thought clever, but which were in reality only rude. While declining to admit the alleged inferiority of women in intellectual attainments, he argued that even if the average of women were intellectually inferior to men, there would still be some who by their talents would secure a share of professional emoluments now absorbed by second or third-rate men. Ability, not genius, was needed for professional success, and that some women had ability was abundantly proved by their recent achievements at Cambridge and London Universities. To deny them access to the learned professions was to foster discontent, and to set them longing for the forbidden fruit which was proverbially sweet. In medicine the principle had been already conceded, and in law he saw no reason why women should not be enabled to use their acknowledged powers of persuasion and of special pleading. The pulpit, however, was a delicate ground; and he would not have women attempt preaching until their practice in other professions had made their appearance in public no longer a matter of curiosity or of remark. Finally, he advocated this concession as an important step towards that realisation of that perfect equality between men and women which he considered to be the hope of the future. The essay of Mr. Tarbotton, the affirmative, was somewhat diffuse in style, and occasionally unequal in language, but was, on the whole, ably written and forcibly delivered.

Mr. D. Tyssil Evans, B.A., followed in the negative with an essay which was undeniably pungent and telling. Disclaiming all intention of imputing "inferiority" to women, he yet contended that there was a marked and essential difference between the sexes, which Mill's theory was inadequate to explain. If Mr. Mill were right, and it was the result of education and of custom, there was surely something to be said on behalf of a custom which was not only ancient but universal. He was strongly in favour of the higher education of women, but if the special education necessary for a profession were undertaken, it would diminish the time available for general training. What were professional women to do when they married? If they continued their profession, the unhappy result might follow, as Mrs. Sutherland-Orr had said, that maternal duties should come to occupy the second place in a mother's mind. He could not but fear that, if women were subjected to the wear and tear of professional life, they would lose the versatility, tenderness, and unselfishness which now distinguished them, and the peculiar influence for good which they now had over men.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Postans, Watts, and Price (students), and was closed by Mr. Gard, a visitor. Although ladies were specially invited to speak, no lady could be induced to state her views. The speakers were all fluent, and their language was, for the most part, well chosen. If the speeches had a fault, it was that they were composed of confident assertion rather than searching argument. As Lord Aberdare remarked, nearly every student began by asserting that the opposite side had a hopelessly weak case. This was excused by his lordship as a part of the duty of an advocate, but surely it is a somewhat blundering if well-meaning method of supporting any cause. No practised debater would ever employ such an exordium, since it creates in the mind of the listener a prejudice against the speaker, and a half-unconscious mental *résumé* of the arguments which have been or might be brought against him. Men who are accustomed to speak *ex cathedra* doubtless find it difficult to acquire debating power, and it is therefore all the more desirable that such societies should be fostered and encouraged. If a leaven of the lay element, accustomed to give and parry well-aimed argumentative thrusts, were introduced, the change might be mutually beneficial, and the debates might become even more animated and well-sustained than that of Tuesday night.

In summing up the discussion, Lord Aberdare said that undoubtedly the intellectual

power of women was not the same in quality as that of men. In poetry even George Eliot and Mrs. Browning could not be compared with the greatest masters of the art. In science women seemed to be rather exponents than discoverers. In music—woman's peculiar accomplishment—she shone rather as a performer than a composer. So there were some spheres in life for which she was plainly unsuited. Obviously women could never be soldiers or police, and he thought no one would care to see them butchers. He had always been in favour of the admission of women to the medical profession, and he would also advocate their admission to the highest educational offices. Among the most hopeful signs of the times was, that thorough training was being substituted for the flimsy and superficial education once thought sufficient for women. He saw many objections to women practising in court or going circuit; and as to the ministry, he feared they were deficient in that sense of justice which was so essential to efficient ministerial work. He put forward these views with the less reluctance, because he felt sure that the great majority of women agreed with him. His lordship having complimented the speakers on the conspicuous ability which they had displayed, put the question to the meeting, when the negative was carried by a large majority. A vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Dr. Newth, and seconded by Mr. Tarbotton, concluded the proceedings.

MR. ALFRED ILLINGWORTH ON THE DISESTABLISHMENT QUESTION.

At Keighley, on the 17th of Feb., the Rev. Dr. Mellor gave his lecture, "Why Meddle," to a large audience, Mr. Alfred Illingworth in the chair. The *Bradford Observer* in its report of the meeting gives the following remarks of Mr. Illingworth:—As they would know, the subject of the lecture had reference to that great problem of the right, the just, the Scriptural, and, therefore, the final relationship which ought to exist between the Church and the State. Happily, this was not a speculative question, or a question outside the range of practical politics. In one part of the Empire—he referred to Ireland—the question had been settled, as most Nonconformists thought, satisfactorily and finally—(hear, hear)—and what they sought to secure was that in regard to Scotland, and ultimately in regard to England, the State should assume the same attitude towards all Christian communities which it had begun to hold in regard to Ireland. (Applause.) Of this we might be quite certain, either that we must advance in Scotland and in England upon the lines of religious equality and non-interference on the part of the State, or that we must consent sooner or later to the establishment in Ireland of a Roman Catholic political Church, maintained at the expense of the State. They would see that the latter course of procedure must be adopted as an act of common justice to the Irish people, unless the other parts of the Empire were treated as Ireland had been treated by the Irish Church Disestablishment Act of 1869. (Applause.) But what was the present position of this great Church question? It was admitted by Episcopalians that things were not in a very satisfactory state. Within the Establishment at this moment there were at least three influential parties, and we had this strange phenomenon, that there was one party which favoured what was called comprehension. The adherents of that party not only desired to retain those who were now within the Establishment, but welcomed all who were outside it; that was to say, they would make the State responsible for every belief, and for the maintenance of every religious dogma. But here were the three parties in the Church at loggerheads; there was already too great a diversity of opinion, too much antagonism, and too high a rivalry within the National Church. So life and so active was this antagonism becoming, that we had the Low Church trying to oust the High Church, to get rid of Mr. Mackonochie, of Canon Clure, of the Rev. Mr. Tooth, and of a host of other men, as earnest and probably as sincere as any in the Church, on the ground that the Establishment was not intended for such as they. If this were the feeling in the Church, and in high quarters in the Church; if this were the disposition of the Prime Minister of this country—and Lord Beaconsfield avowed, in passing the Public Worship Regulation Act, that his object was to put down Ritualism—the result of an attempt to do away with Ritualistic observances would, as we must see, be to drive out of the Church the whole body of Ritualists, so earnest were they in the advocacy of the views which they held. This being the real state of the case, the idea of a further comprehension was childish and nonsensical. (Hear, hear.) How could the State continue responsible for these antagonisms within the Church? That it should do so would be a scandal to our country and our civilisation, and their prevalence was an outrage upon that unity in which Christians ought to act. (Applause.) Many people, he dared say, had lately flattered themselves that this great question was being quietly shelved, that the Liberation Society and the great body of Liberals in the country were not now so earnest and resolute as they had once been in forcing forward the question of Disestablishment. But Liberals were prac-

tical men, although they had such a strong feeling on the Church and State Question, and if they believed our country to be in danger from new causes of mischief, they of course turned aside to avert the danger; but let no one fancy that this great question was asleep, or would be allowed to sleep. It had its place in practical politics; it was living in Scotland at this moment as a question that must be dealt with at the coming election; and in that good time which some persons saw before this country, and which might not be far distant, when the things should be righted which had of late gone wrong politically owing to the mismanagement of the present Government, a force stronger than ever would be found at the back of this great question of Disestablishment and Disendowment. (Loud applause.)

Dr. MELLOR then delivered his lecture, which was listened to with earnest attention, and was frequently applauded. A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer was subsequently passed, on the motion of Mr. JOHN CLOUGH, seconded by the Rev. A. B. MORRIS.

In moving the adoption of a similar compliment to the chairman, Mr. J. W. LAYCOCK alluded, amid enthusiastic cheering, to Mr. Illingworth's candidature for Bradford, and said that he would ably, and with honour to that town, take the place of the late member, who had had more to do with raising and defending this great question than any man living at the present day.

Mr. W. S. B. McLAREN having seconded the motion, it was carried by acclamation.

Mr. ILLINGWORTH acknowledged the vote, and was loudly cheered. When in the House of Commons it had sometimes been his lot to be numbered with a minority of men who, being in advance of the general body of Liberals, were entitled to the characteristic of pioneers. If he should again be sent to Parliament, he expected to find himself in the same position. But not for long. As political education spread, the constituencies of this country would insist upon the realisation of those reforms with which the names of some advanced men were allied. All that was required of the Keighley Liberals was fidelity, with resoluteness, when the opportunity presented itself, of coming face to face with their candidates, in order that they might make a further advance in the direction of that freedom which we all so strongly desired. (Loud applause.)

The meeting then separated.

MEETINGS IN WALES.

During the past week a successful series of meetings has been held in North Wales, addressed by Mr. J. Fisher in English and the Rev. J. Jones in Welsh. The meetings have been held at Llanrwst, Portmadoc, Beaumaris, and Conway. All of them have been well attended, the attendance at Llanrwst, and Beaumaris being especially good. At the latter place the meeting was made additionally interesting by the opposition of the rector, whose good-natured but persistent questions excited much amusement. Mr. Fisher dealt with him very tenderly. One of the features of these meetings has been the excellent support given the deputation by local ministers. At all of them the deputation were cordially thanked, as were also the different gentlemen who presided.

SCHOOL FOR THE SONS OF MISSIONARIES, BLACKHEATH.—The annual meeting of the friends of this school was held in the dining-hall of the house, on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, the chair being occupied by the treasurer, W. H. DOBELL, Esq. The report, which was read by A. H. BAYNES, Esq., secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, gave a gratifying account of the present state of the school, both as regards its financial position, and the sound health which has long been enjoyed by the pupils, and referred to the fact of four boys having recently passed the London Matriculation Examination in the first division, immediately on attaining the age qualifying them to become candidates, as evidence that the educational work was being well sustained. The announcement was also made that a scholarship would shortly be available for enabling a pupil to prosecute his studies at one of the Universities after leaving school. The Rev. J. BEAZLEY, chairman of the House Committee, spoke warmly of the high moral tone which his intercourse with some of the elder boys led him to believe pervaded the whole; and the Rev. J. ARLETON, M.A., of Calcutta, expressed the confidence and gratitude with which the missionaries committed their children to the school under its present management. In the evening the annual *soirée* was held, the guests numbering about 250. The admirable training of the school singing classes and the assistance of some friends supplied a musical entertainment of a higher order of merit. A recitation of part of "Comus" was given with excellent taste by a party of the boys.

"The English Independent and Nonconformist" have been united under the title of *Nonconformist and Independent*. Each was a strong paper before the union. The united paper may, in point of ability, variety of contents, and journalistic spirit, aspire to lead the religious Press on both sides of the sea."—*Chicago Standard*.

RITUALISM AND THE GOSPEL.

UNDER the auspices of the Reading Evangelical Nonconformist Young Men's Association, the Rev. J. Aldis, for many years the popular pastor of King's-road Baptist Chapel, gave a lecture in the Albert Hall, Reading, on "Ritualism and the Gospel," Mr. E. West presiding.

The Rev. J. ALDIS said the subject of his address, "Ritualism and the Gospel," was one in which Nonconformists had a direct and great interest in this matter. The attitude of Ritualism was unmistakable in regard to Dissent. Its hostility was avowed and resolved. From one of the "Tracts for the Times," he would read a brief extract:—"Whatever be our private differences with Roman Catholics, we may join with them in condemning Socinians, Baptists, Independents, Quakers, and the like; but God forbid that we should ally ourselves with heresy and schism." To Ritualists it was evident that Dissent was more hateful than sin, or, rather, that Dissent was in itself the very greatest of all sins. Their idea of heaven seemed very much to be the entire freedom from Dissenters. (Laughter.) For the charm of the advertised living was not that in a given parish there were no thieves and no blasphemers, but that there were no Dissenters. The late Bishop Wilberforce, he thought, might be taken as a fair representative of the temper of the whole. It was with a true clerical instinct that in his original utterances he connected beershops with Dissent. His plain declaration in his biography uttered what he (Mr. Aldis) believed to be the temper of his class. He said: "If a man be but a Churchman I can forgive him anything else in the world." The Bishop referred to his first charge in relation to the Dissenters, and inquired of Dr. Hook, "What is the best method of dealing with them?" He found a small congregation of Wesleyans. He succeeded in scattering them. He said he did it by the help of God. But the Ranters, as he called them, got in—and those in Reading knew they were somebodies. (Laughter and applause.) They succeeded in gathering a congregation, and it was evident that this was too much for the good man, and even with the help of God he could not put down the Ranters. (Laughter and applause.) So he inquired very particularly of Dr. Hook if he could tell him what methods he should take in order to get at that set of evil ones. Now, if this were the temper and the aim of the Ritualism to which he referred, they had a direct interest as Nonconformists in the matter. (Applause.) No one aim was more distinct and no one object more eagerly pursued than the quenching of the fire of Nonconformity, and if these men should at last succeed—God forbid that they should—there was no question that upon them in an endless variety of ways the full weight of their influence would be brought to bear. Mr. Aldis, after exposing the unscriptural character of the doctrines taught by the Ritualists, said:—The thing that surprises me most is their unceasing, diversified, and earnest denunciation of Protestantism on the ground of its immorality. I feel that this is a wonderful phenomenon. I know nothing analogous to it in human life, except the cry of "Stop thief," by the real thief himself. (Laughter and applause.) When men can take pay and place in an avowedly Protestant institution to do the work of Rome; when they can write without mental reservation as they do in regard to the most sacred and solemn of all subjects; when they can placidly sit down and pen the declaration that they read the Articles of the Church in a non-natural sense, I am revolted in my inmost soul. (Applause.) Some men will ridicule the folly of the system, and others will denounce the pretentiousness of it; in my heart the feeling that lies deepest is the unutterable wickedness of it. (Hear, hear.) Until the country shall feel it, and feel it to act upon it, the right position will not be taken, and the right temper not shown. This suggests a reference to the latest and most illustrious of its converts—I mean Lord Beaconsfield. (Laughter and applause.) I say it without the least consciousness of exaggeration. I do not know any man in these islands whose character so completely impersonates the whole system of Ritualism. Its methods, and temper, and principles, and aims, find the most complete embodiment in him. (Applause.) You know that he advocated very earnestly a measure for the regulation of public worship. He described that measure as a measure to stamp out Ritualism, and suppress the Mass in masquerade. Very shortly after, however, he went to a harvest thanksgiving service at Hughendon Church, where there was a grand procession of priests and banners, and at a meeting the same evening he described what he had seen as the true Protestant faith combined with the beauty of holiness. (Laughter.) I was very glad when I was asked to come to a meeting of the Young Men's Evangelical Nonconformist Association, and for this very reason—I do not see anywhere in English society any certain breakwater against this invading flood, or any influence that can guide and bless the future, so that our countrymen may continue to enjoy what they have so long been blessed with. Survey society far and near, and I think you will find there are few elements of promise or of hope. Luxury and light reading

have done their work. There is a certain want of elasticity and strength, both in will and conscience, that leaves a large margin for the working of all sorts of imaginary and exciting influences. I want you to take your place and endeavour to understand the obligation which rests upon you; to form, with the aid of the Divine strength, the resolve that you will plant your foot firmly down, to hold the truth manfully, vindicate it everywhere and in every way consistent with truth and righteousness, leaving to others to do as they will. If the Evangelical Churchman shall prove timid and powerless; if the Broad Churchmen be supine and indifferent; if Scepticism in all its ranks does nothing but its usual and appropriate work—look on listlessly and chuckle; if Liberal statesmen should stand in awe of this phantom, afraid to put it down; and if other statesmen should see therein a force which they can wield, and an instrument they can use to further their ends—Nonconformist young men, stand firm to your principles, in the fear of God and the love of man. (Loud applause.) The best interests of your country demand it, and will be secured by it. The honour of your gracious Saviour; the testimony of your own conscience; the peace of your own mind and heart, when your day's work is done; the satisfaction in your own soul of having stood firmly and consistently, and Godwardly, and devotedly as the friends of God's truth, and the promoters of His grace—all this will secure for you a larger amount of rest and gladness than anything else can supply. The rev. gentleman concluded his lecture amid loud and prolonged applause, and hearty votes of thanks were afterwards passed to the lecturer and to the chairman.

The lecture at this institution on the 9th inst., will be by the Rev. R. W. Dale.

MR. R. W. DALE'S LECTURES AT UNION CHAPEL.

The fourth and final lecture of the series on "The Rise of Evangelical Nonconformity" was delivered by the Rev. R. W. Dale, at Union Chapel, Islington, on Tuesday evening. The chair was taken by Professor Bryce, D.C.L.

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen,—I have never been quite able to understand what are the functions of a chairman on the occasion of a lecture like this. It seems to me that they are very little, except to delay the audience from the pleasure which has brought them together, and that his only use is to make vague and commonplace remarks, as a foil to the interesting lecture which is to follow. However, my friend Dr. Allon tells me I must say something. I cannot say anything in the way of introducing Mr. Dale to you, because there is no audience, and, least of all, a highly-cultivated and educated audience, in England, to which a man who has written and a man who has spoken as Mr. Dale can require any introduction. But if I am to say something, I will ask your leave to make one or two passing observations upon a subject which occurred to me in listening on the first night of this course of lectures to the account which Mr. Dale gave of the beginnings of English Evangelical Nonconformity. The question I then asked myself was this—What are the principles, what are the ideas, which English Evangelical Nonconformity has contributed to the life and thought of England? It appeared to me that among those contributions, which are many, one might single out two as being of special and permanent value and importance. The first is the idea of true spiritual freedom—(hear, hear)—the idea that the State has no right to prescribe or to control religious belief or religious worship—that the civil power must neither encourage by rewards and honours the holding of particular views by any sect or person, nor, on the other hand, visit with pains and penalties, or even with the mildest form of civil and legal disability, those who espouse any other form than that which it chooses to prescribe. To do so would be to interfere, as we are now happily all well agreed, between the individual human soul and its Creator, which must have the effect not only of injuring that soul and of injuring religion, but of ultimately injuring and weakening the State itself. Now, that is a doctrine and a principle quite apart from any question as regards the worth or the defensibility of ecclesiastical establishments. It is quite true that ecclesiastical establishments were formerly defended upon theories of persecution—the very theories which justified the interference of the State with opinion, which we are agreed in condemning. But the defenders of establishments are now agreed in forsaking that line of defence. They admit, as heartily as you all hold, that the State has no justification for any interference with the freedom of thought, and if they defend establishments at all, it is merely by endeavouring to represent them as a moral agent. Now, this idea of true spiritual freedom was first initiated at the time of the Reformation. It was, no doubt, the ground and basis of the Reformation. It was the very breath of the nostrils of men like Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin; but it is one of the most curious and melancholy facts in modern history, that that great truth was no sooner found than it was lost again. Of course, as might be expected, the great Roman Catholic powers

of Europe opposed the principle of spiritual freedom with all the resources at their command. They hated it as heartily as they hated its results; but what may more surprise us is, that Protestant States should so soon have entered on the evil inheritance of persecution. In nearly all the countries of Europe where Protestantism became the dominant religion, the Reformers were driven by the political dangers in which they found themselves to ally their own opinions with the civil power, and thus helping the civil power, often, as in England, in the hands of tyrannical kings or ministers, they re-established the old system of persecution. They did not, indeed, burn heretics, but they did what was little better, they fined and imprisoned, banished and put to death, persons whose conscience refused to allow them to accept the form of faith which they prescribed. Thus it was that this principle of spiritual freedom had to be re-discovered afresh, and the eternal glory and honour of re-discovering it belongs firstly and mainly to English Nonconformity. (Applause.) It was not, indeed, discovered as a matter of theory. The history of Presbyterianism in Scotland, and the history of Congregationalism in New England, are enough to show that the patriarchs of Puritanism and of Nonconformity had not got any such firm grasp as we have now of this great spiritual principle. Cromwell seems to have had some glimpses of it; but it was reserved for later ages, in fact, for a time not far beyond our own, to discover it in its full breadth. It is, I think, the historian of the Baptists who makes the remark, although, no doubt, an historian of the Society of Friends might have done so too, that the Baptists are the only sect which have never persecuted, and then he goes on to ask, "Why is it that they have never persecuted?" and the answer he gives is this, "They never had the chance." (Laughter.) I am afraid there is some truth in it, and that if all Protestant denominations had had the chance two centuries ago, each would have been little behind the other in the race of persecution. It was not by the working out of any abstract speculations that this great and deep truth was reached by the English Nonconformists; it was by the hard and bitter experience which they themselves had of the sufferings they endured under repressive laws, that they learned that laws which worked so ill, must somehow or other, have their foundation in error and wrong, and it was by seeing that such was the wicked foundation of those laws that they were led to discover what is the true basis of the State, and what is the true and only safeguard for the purity of religion, namely, to warn off the civil magistrate altogether from the domain of conscience. (Hear, hear.) Now that we are all agreed about that principle, it may well seem strange that it should have taken so long a time to work out a truth which is contained in those words of Christ when He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." In those words the whole truth was spoken; but when we remember that during twelve centuries, from the time when Christianity was first established under the Emperor Constantine till the era of the Reformation, the whole world was overshadowed by the conception of a despotic Empire-Church, holding herself to be in the possession of absolute and infallible truth, and charged to enforce that truth by the civil power upon all mankind, we become more grateful to, and we feel a greater admiration for, those who at the Reformation broke in pieces that whole idea of an Empire-Church, and those who in England in succeeding generations combated for the rights of conscience against the tyranny of kings and Parliaments. (Applause.) The other contribution, which we may hold has been made to English thought and English public life by the Nonconformists of this country, is, perhaps, to be summed up in this, that they are those who have seen most clearly, and asserted most constantly the supremacy of moral principles in the conduct of national policy. (Applause.) One must not claim that merit for them as if it belonged to them exclusively, because there have been many great and good men in the Church of England who have held that principle no less firmly, no less earnestly, than the Nonconformists have held it. (Applause.) The men who resisted our wicked war with the American colonies, the men who did so much to abolish the slave trade and ultimately negro slavery in the West Indies—no men could be more penetrated with the moral duty of a nation than those men were. But what we may claim for English Nonconformists is this, that, taken as a whole, they have more constantly felt, and more earnestly expressed the truth that nations have a moral life and a moral duty, and that it is possible for a nation in her conduct to her own subjects to other States, and to savage races, to sin against God and the God of righteousness. (Applause.) Nonconformists were obliged in their persons to make a choice between obedience to conscience and temporal advantage, and in making that choice and in preferring their conscience they became witnesses, one may say to some extent martyrs, for what they held to be the truth. In that way they were led to hold a deeper view of the paramount obligation of duty, and to carry out in public as well as in private life their sense of the supremacy and sovereignty

of duty, over the whole of a man's and a nation's conduct. They were no doubt sometimes stern and uncompromising in the way in which they asserted that principle, but it is, at any rate, the safe side to err on. It is always the safe side for a nation to think first of its duty, because we may be quite sure it will have temptations enough to think of its interest. To try every public question by the great test of right and wrong, to scrutinise our own motives with the same care with which we scrutinise those of others, to respect the rights of other nations as we wish our own to be respected, those are the great principles and great virtues on which the well-being of a nation depends, and it is only by practice of those great and necessary virtues that we can hope to bring the world onwards in the path of progress towards a time when peace and goodwill shall prevail over all the world. (Applause.) Those persons who try to inculcate such principles and such virtues in national policy are sometimes reproached with being unpatriotic. Your ancestors, the patriarchs of Nonconformity, of whom Mr. Dale has been telling us, had worse reproaches to bear than that, and they bore them like men, and surely those are in all countries the truest patriots who set the highest value upon the fair fame, the honour, and the reputation of their country, as those men were the truest patriots in the past in England who won for us the freedom of worship and belief which we now enjoy by their long resistance—won it for us and won it for the whole civilised world, won it even more by the patient endurance of many humble men, than by the sword of Hampden, or by the pen of Milton. (Loud applause.)

Mr. R. W. DALE, M.A., commenced his lecture by stating that towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, the Puritans cherished the hope that on the accession of James, persecution would cease. There was no doubt a great deal to justify this feeling, for James had again and again professed strong sympathy with Presbyterianism; but James was a Stuart, and, what was much the same thing, he was a liar. His solemn professions were all hypocritical, even according to his own admission. At the Hampton Court Conference he declared that though he had lived among Puritans from the time when he was ten years of age he had always disliked their opinions, and added that, as the Saviour of the world said, though he lived among them he was not of them. Whether the lying of his earlier years or the profanity of this latter declaration was the more abominable it was hard to say. On his way to London, in April, 1603, the Puritans met him with a petition asking for the relaxation of the laws enforcing certain ceremonies, and the petitioners hoped that their prayer would be granted. Mr. Dale gave a graphic account of the sycophantic behaviour of the bishops at the Hampton Court Conference when they discovered that James had resolved to take their side in the controversy, and showed the insincerity of the king in his speeches on that occasion by reading a letter which was sent to a correspondent in Scotland, and which stated, "We have kept such a revel with the Puritans here these two days, as was never heard the like." The alterations made in the Book of Common Prayer were absolutely insignificant, and they were not submitted either to Parliament or to Convocation before they were enforced. The king directed the Archbishop and the other Ecclesiastical Commissioners to make a declaration of the changes agreed upon, and then, by his letters patent, ratified their act, providing for the publication of the liturgy in its new form, and enjoining its exclusive use in every parish in the kingdom. It was evident that the Puritans were losing courage, and that there was less of fire and audacity in them at the beginning of James's reign than there was twenty years before. The moderate party was almost crushed, and the extreme men had been driven into exile. The time for conciliation had almost come, and if James and his bishops had been wise, they might have averted the Civil War. But the repression of Puritanism had been so successful that they resolved to carry it still further. Both the king and the Archbishop, Bancroft, were desirous to treat the Roman Catholics tenderly, but they were agreed in their intention to suppress Puritanism. Large numbers of the clergy were deprived of their livings, and the emigration to Holland greatly increased. After an allusion to the burning of Leggatt and Whiteman, the last men who were burnt in England for heresy, the lecturer went on to describe the emigration of the Separatists to Holland, and their disagreements in that country, causing considerable amusement by mentioning one schism in a church at Amsterdam, which was caused by the wife of the pastor wearing whalebone in her dress and cork soles to her boots. Even during the Commonwealth a great many of the Puritans believed that it was quite possible to make such changes in the Elizabethan Church without destroying Episcopacy as would secure the religious reforms which they desired. It was this belief which made the task of Cromwell so terribly difficult, and the restoration of the king and bishops possible. Mr. Dale also sketched the progress during this period of the Anabaptists. But even the Restoration, he said, did not restore the Romanising policy of Laud. Not until our own times had there been any attempt

to reassert the ecclesiastical principles which contributed to the overthrow of the English monarchy. The lecture concluded with a powerful description of the analogy between the pretensions of the Church in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the Ritualistic movement of the present day.

The Rev. Dr. ALLON: Before we separate I have to ask you for an expression of your sense of obligation, first to Mr. Dale, and next to our chairman. I ought, I think, to have made some arrangement for a formal vote of thanks being given to Mr. Dale for this course of lectures. It did not occur to me, and I have neglected to do so; therefore I must myself do so in a very informal way, and ask Mr. Henry Spicer to second it. I will not attempt to characterise the four lectures to which we have listened. One thing must have impressed us all—namely, the immense painstaking, the industrious research, and the affluence learning, such as pertains to the subject, which the lecturer has evinced in preparing them. We must all feel that these lectures have not been lightly got up in a rhetorical way for popular effect. Dr. Dale has very thoroughly studied the history of the times which he has attempted to bring before us, and I for one have followed him with critical closeness, but I do not know that I can differ from him in any material way with regard to the interpretation of the evidence which he has put before us. I think the reign of Elizabeth is worthy of study, first by Churchmen who are putting forth such inordinate claims for the continuity of their Church. There is no period of English history so intractable to a High Churchman as the reign of Elizabeth. Then, I think, we Nonconformists have learnt great lessons for present controversy, for beyond all doubt, as Mr. Dale has told us, we have to fight over and over again the battle of the later Stuart period, I trust with more peaceful weapons, but with a result as signal. I, for one, cannot help thanking him for his bold and manly avowal of spiritual and Protestant sentiments. I endorse to the full not only every word, but every emphasis that Mr. Dale has put upon this part of the subject; and, if I mistake not, this is the judgment, with scarcely an exception, of the Evangelical Nonconformist Churches of England. If they achieved so much in the time of the Commonwealth with their comparatively little strength, they need not be afraid of the issue with their present resources. If they did these things "in the green tree," I think they will do a great deal "in the dry." I thank Mr. Dale for coming up four times from Birmingham to deliver these lectures to us, as well as for the great ability shown in the lectures themselves. (Applause.)

Mr. HENRY SPICER: I am sure no words of mine are necessary to get you to pass with thorough heartiness and acclamation this vote of thanks. I think there are none of us who thought we knew the period of English history that Dr. Dale has been expounding to us, but must have learnt some fresh lesson that will strengthen our faith in our old historic principles, and make us more determined that we will carry them out in the policy of our country. I ask you very heartily to support this vote of thanks.

The resolution was agreed to amid loud applause.

Mr. R. W. DALE: I have to thank my old friend Dr. Allon, and my old friend Mr. Spicer, for the very kind manner in which they have been good enough to propose and second this vote of thanks, and I have to thank you for the conspicuous and wonderful patience with which you have listened to lectures that have been rather longer, perhaps, than they should have been—"No, no"—and next, for the cordiality with which you have passed this vote of thanks. I am not going to abuse my position by detaining you for more than just one minute. I should, however, like to take this opportunity of saying that I have felt extreme interest in this course of lectures and have been grateful for the opportunity of delivering them in this place, principally for one reason. It has so happened—I hardly know how or why—that my name has been associated for some years past, almost exclusively in many quarters, with what is commonly described as the political side of Dissent. Now I have a very deep impression of the political duties resting upon Englishmen, and I also have a very deep impression of the political importance of what is understood as the Disestablishment Controversy; but I have always cared a great deal more for the religious than for the political aspects of that controversy. I am not merely a Nonconformist: I am a Congregationalist heart and soul. I believe it was worth while to be hung for Congregationalism. Men were hung for it three hundred years ago; and if I could serve it in no other way I would be hung for it now. (Laughter and applause.) I was rather anxious to affirm that and to affirm it in circumstances which would give a certain emphasis to it. Always remember our ecclesiastical ancestors, as I told you a few nights ago, did not struggle for their rights: they suffered in the fulfilment of their duties; and I do not believe that any Church will ever render any service worth rendering to God or man, if it thinks first of its rights, and secondly of its duties. The only value they can attach to a right is this—that it enables us to discharge a duty; and it is because we have such

intense faith in Congregationalism, because as I look back upon English history I see that when Erastianism was everywhere triumphant, Puritanism and the Puritans and the Separatists reaffirmed the idea of the Church, that I look back upon the Puritans and the Separatists with such profound veneration. Now, I have noticed during the last fifteen or twenty years that, even among ourselves, almost the first reason that is urged by those who are Congregationalists why they are not members of the Established Church is this—that they do not believe in the connection between Church and State. Well, that is a strong reason with me for being outside the Established Church; but if the Church were disestablished, I should be outside the Episcopal Church still, because I believe with all my heart and soul and strength in the awful mystery, and glory, and power of "two or three gathered together" in the name of Christ. Christ is among them when they are gathered in His name, and my loyalty to Him, as I interpret His will, requires me to work that will out in the form of a Congregational polity. I was glad to have the opportunity of saying as much as this in this series of lectures; and I hope that so far as the younger people in this congregation are concerned, a few of them may be led by what I have said to read for themselves the early story of the struggles and sufferings of their fathers. In these days when integrity in relation to truth is not invested with the august sanctions that once attached to it, it seems to me of grave importance to remember that it is just as necessary to be honest first in thought, and then in speech in relation to religious truth, as it is in relation to timber and bricks, and the other matters by which you get your living. Honesty in religious thought and honesty in religious speech—these lie near the foundation, I take it, of a healthy church and a vigorous nation. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. Dr. ALLON: Permit me in the same informal way to propose a vote of thanks to our chairman. He is the last of a series of chairmen who have done us great honour by coming to preside at these lectures. First and foremost was Mr. Bright. (Applause.) It has been calumniously said that he could not with any consistency appear upon a platform in a Congregational church, inasmuch as our Congregational forefathers would have dragged his Quaker forefathers through the streets, and flogged them at the cart tail. I simply repel that as an unmitigated calumny. George Fox was in the habit of worshipping in Congregational churches; and in no single instance that I know of was a Quaker persecuted by Congregationalists. It is a most unscrupulous method of controversy, and ought to be repudiated. Our chairman to-night has many claims of distinction. First, he has been on the top of Mount Ararat, and he told me to-night that he had brought away a bit of Noah's ark. (Laughter.) Next, he is a very distinguished scholar and professor in the University of Oxford. Then he has written a book which, I think, will, for many generations, be regarded as a classic in the English language—"The History of the Holy Roman Empire." Then he is going to represent the Tower Hamlets in Parliament. (Loud applause.) He has been for a long time a very kind personal friend of my own, and has shown me many courtesies; and last and chiefest, he is faithful to all that we believe to be great and true and holy principles. For these and very many other reasons, I now ask you to give him a most hearty expression of your sense of obligation to him for presiding to-night. (Loud applause.)

Professor BRYCE: Dr. Allon, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am very sensible of the great honour done me by giving me so hearty a vote of thanks, and I thank you very sincerely for it. I cannot see, however, that a man deserves any thanks for indulging himself, as I have done to-night, in a very great and real pleasure; because I cannot conceive any higher pleasure than any one can enjoy than to listen to such an historical account, diversified by so many bursts of practical eloquence as Mr. Dale has given us. I am sure I only express the feelings of all of you when I say that we heartily hope that these lectures will be preserved in a permanent form by being published. (Applause.) Mr. Dale has afforded us much pleasure and much profit. It has been some pleasure to think that we have progressed so much since the times which he has described, and that he can now benefit the advancing cause of Liberalism by his eloquent voice, instead of by hanging, as he would have had to do two or three hundred years ago, on the gallows. It ought to be profitable to us, and especially, as he has well said, to the younger members of this audience, to cast our eyes and minds back to the times of the struggles which he has been describing, to learn what were those principles upon which Nonconformity has been built up. This is a time of comparative peace and security—it is a time, therefore, when those principles are apt to be forgotten; but it is a time when great questions are just as much in peril, and require just as complete a devotion as they did some three hundred years ago. The best tribute we can pay to our forefathers and to the services which they rendered, is to strive, in pondering on their deeds, to catch some portion of their strenuous and lofty spirit. (Loud applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

LONDON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of subscribers was held on Monday evening, Feb. 23rd, at Abney Chapel, Stoke Newington; Henry Wright, Esq., J.P., treasurer, presided. After prayer by the Rev. W. Spensley.

The CHAIRMAN introduced the business of the meeting by saying that he could speak with confidence to them of the energy with which the work of the society had been done during the year, both by the committee and its sub-committees, and of the greatness of the undertakings in hand, but he was sorry to report a serious deficiency in funds. The committee were most anxious to deal liberally with all the projects before them. The usefulness of ministers depended largely on the buildings they occupied being on commanding sites, and being in themselves adequate, suitable, and attractive. No doubt all earnest and faithful labour will be blessed of God, but much can be done to render such labour eminently productive. The people round about a place of worship should, by its external attractiveness and internal conveniences, be led into it and feel at home within it. (Hear, hear.) There was no doubt that the society should give very much larger support in all the cases of chapel building, but, as their means now were, this was impossible. The society needs tenfold more money than it receives. (Hear, hear.) Some method of asserting themselves was necessary, and he knew not how this could be effected but through the earnest co-operation of ministers and deacons. In reviewing the work of the year, he ought not to overlook the important services of the Plans Sub-committee. They examined the plans and specifications of all structures for which the society made contributions, and had been remarkably successful in indicating defects and estimating outlays. In many cases local committees had thus been preserved from an expenditure beyond their means, as well as induced to rearrange their intended buildings.

Mr. J. T. BRIGHTON, the secretary, read an abstract of the report which, after referring to the commercial depression of the past year, and the death of Mr. Remington Mills (whose average contribution from the commencement of the society was nearly £500 a-year), mentioned that the society since its establishment, in 1878, had assisted in building and enlarging 132 chapels, of which 114 are entirely new buildings, besides aiding nine chapels which are now in progress—an average of four new buildings per annum. The total of grants and loans without interest represented in these figures is £163,865 6s. 1d. Calculating the accommodation provided as being on an average 750 for each building, and the cost per sitting £3 12s., would give 105,750 as the accommodation thus provided, at a cost of £697,950. The value of the entire property must considerably exceed one million sterling. The chapels and lecture halls opened during the last year number six, and the total of the obligations of the society for enterprises in hand amounts to £6,100. The report thus concluded:—

The committee would, in conclusion, urge serious consideration of the magnitude, moral aspects and solemn significances of the sphere in which the society is doing its work. It is "Greater London"—i.e. the London of the Metropolitan Police District, containing, on the 31st of December, 1878, a population of 4,531,040 souls, and this is increasing at the rate of 75,000 a year! There are about 250 Congregational chapels in this district. To provide one for every 10,000 of the population (the share of accommodation announced as the aim of the Wesleyan Methodists) as it now is, there should be erected by Congregationalists 203 new chapels! And what is the state of this population? A writer of acknowledged authority on such subjects in the "Companion to the Almanack" issued for the current year gives the following statistics:—During 1878 "83,746 persons were arrested for various offences, being an increase of 5,764 persons over the previous year, and of more than 10,000 over the average of 1873-74-75, when there was a comparative lull in theft and disorder. 42,806 drunken and disorderly persons were arrested, an increase of 4,016 over 1877; and assaults, both common and assaults on the police, were in excess of the previous year. 12,880 persons, of whom 9,581 were children under ten years of age, were reported to the police as missing during the year, of these 6,669 were found and restored by the police; 66 adults committed suicide; 6,004 were found by friends or returned home; and 19 children and 122 adults were still unaccounted for when the year closed. In addition to these, 57 dead bodies of persons unknown were photographed, of whom there has not been any identification." He also quotes the following testimonies from two opposite quarters. The Rev. Canon Gregory, Vicar of St. Mary the Less, Lambeth, in a sermon preached before the University of Oxford, says, "The inhabitants of our poor London parishes are in a condition of practical heathenism; religious observances of every kind are neglected; the form and the spirit alike have fled; there is little avowed unbelief, but nearly universal indifference; it is no question of Church or Dissent, or of religious opinions, but whether there shall be any religion or none. An immense majority of the people—certainly not less than four out of every five—never enter any place of worship from year's end to year's end. They live, like the brutes, a mere animal life; their thoughts are bounded by what has relation to this world; they rarely commit great crimes; they make no profession of unbelief; but the only creed in which they believe and by which they act, is 'Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.'" The Rev. John Stoughton, D.D., after personally visiting some of these districts,

remarks, "I have been to Naples, and have seen the Lazzaroni lying upon the quay; I have been to Rome and have seen Italian peasants on the steps of St. Peter's, or by the ascent to the capitol; I have seen Greek sailor-boys and fishermen from the Adriatic coiled like so many snakes upon the marble floor of St. Mark's, at Venice, but I have never seen types of humanity in so degraded and repulsive a form as I have seen them in London." Who can wonder, in view of the crimes and miseries of London, that John Ruskin should in characteristically impassioned language exclaim, "The great cities of the earth, which ought to be the places set on its hills, with the Temple of the Lord in the midst of them, to which the tribes should go up—centres to the kingdoms and provinces of Honour, Virtue, and the knowledge of the law of God,—have become, instead, loathsome centres of fornication and covetousness—the smoke of their sin going up into the face of heaven like the furnace of Sodom, and the pollution of it rotting and raging through the bones and souls of the peasant people round them, as if they were each a volcano whose ashes broke out in blains upon man and beast." Are these true pictures of London? If so—can it be right that a society for building houses for the worship of God and the preaching of the Gospel among its teeming multitudes should be so crippled in its power of contribution that it must cease to give the invaluable stimulus and strength which come from free and generous grants of money? Nowhere are these buildings so much needed as where there is least disposition to make use of them, for to erect them is to establish vital centres of moral and spiritual influence among the men and women and children around; and thus, in the words of the Divine Master, "compel them to come in, that My house may be filled." (Cheers.)

The audited balance-sheet represented a total of receipts (including £1,670 of loans refused) of £4,116 5s. 2d., and a total expenditure of £3,637 17s. 11d., leaving a balance at the bankers of £478 7s. 3d. The liabilities of the society are £8,100.

The Rev. R. VAUGHAN PRICE moved the adoption of the report. The resolution, while expressing thanks for the increase reported in the number and total proceeds of the public collections during the past year, urged upon the ministers and deacons, especially of the congregations which have been assisted by the society, the appointment, by a vote of each church, of one or more of its members, to represent the claims of the society, and obtain annual subscriptions for its funds. He said it was plain, from the facts presented in the report, that individual churches cannot meet the moral wants and demands of such a population—growing, too, as it is at so rapid a rate. The principle and rules of this society were to stimulate and develop to the utmost local strength and action. Assuredly nothing could be more healthy, and no institution more deserving of general and liberal support. (Cheers.)

Rev. Dr. WILSON, in seconding the resolution, alluded to the history of Nonconformity since 1688, and showed how great the progress had been in London in the work of building chapels. In reference to this work, he reminded the meeting of the noble project of Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., of promoting, by means of this society, the erection first of twelve new chapels, and then of a second set of twelve. (Cheers.)

J. T. STANESBY, Esq., in supporting the resolution, urged a more generous rate of contribution at the public collections, and showed that though there had been considerable improvement in this source during the year, the average per chapel was painfully small. (Hear, hear.) He also directed attention to the importance of securing the freehold of sites, as tending to the vigour and perpetuity of the churches gathered in the buildings erected upon them.

The second resolution appointing the officers and committee for the year was moved by the Rev. H. GRIFFITH, F.G.S., seconded by the Rev. D. G. WATT, A.M., and supported by S. C. SEARLE, Esq.

The third resolution, acknowledging the services of the chairman and the kindness of the Rev. W. Spensley and his deacons, was moved by C. SHEPHEARD, Esq., seconded by G. TOMLINSON, Esq., and supported by J. FERNIE, Esq.

After adjournment for tea and coffee, devotional services were conducted by the Rev. R. V. PRYCE.

Mr. H. WRIGHT, in addressing the congregation, said: There is an interest absolutely unique belonging to our holding our anniversary services in this place of worship. The London Congregational Chapel Building Society was established in 1848, and the first public collection towards its funds was made in this chapel. In the first report of the society, the following items appear:—"Collection at Abney Chapel, by Rev. J. Jefferson, £23 0s. 3d.; Miss Cooper, per ditto, £10; Miss Madgwick, per ditto, £2—£35 0s. 3d." Nor is this all: although till about two years ago the society had not given or lent any money on account of the chapel, from the year 1849 to the present time, with very few exceptions, an annual collection for the society has been made in this place. The chapel stands perfectly alone in this lengthened and helpful relationship with the society. It was, therefore, with deep gratification that the committee in 1877, when the happy necessity arrived for enlarging the building a second time, assisted the congregation by a loan without interest of £500, and that the committee in 1878 voted to the same, on return of this loan of £500, a free

grant of £100. You can accordingly understand that, in view of these circumstances, it is with unusual pleasure—and, indeed, I may say with special joy—that we hold our annual sermon this year in this place of worship. After giving some details from the report, Mr. Wright proceeded: As to our funds, we have received in the form of subscriptions and donations, during the last year, only £648. This is the lowest sum ever received from this source, and, with one exception, when all the efforts of the committee were absorbed in forming the loan fund. On the other hand, there is one comforting fact. The Congregational collections of last year, both as to number of chapels and amount collected, are the largest ever known. The total is £399. It is important also to state that our loan fund remains intact, and consists of a total sum of £11,050. The time has come when we can no longer rely on the large gifts of the generous founders of this society. If we are to continue to make grants for chapel building, the public generally must help us. At this moment there are enterprises in hand as important and urgent as any ever undertaken by the society. We appeal to the ministers and deacons of our churches not only for larger collections, but that they will present our objects to their congregations as demanding systematic help in the form of subscriptions and donations. If only one gentleman or lady in each congregation would undertake thus to represent our claims, we feel sure that the item of subscriptions and donations would be rapidly made very much larger. Can there be a work more necessary than to provide for the teeming multitudes of London places for the worship of God and the preaching of the Gospel? On every side of London, there is a rapid growth of suburbs which require new places of worship. Now, it depends very much upon the help this society is able to give whether the free churches of our faith and order will be established in these new districts or not, and whether the buildings to be erected shall be large, well-constructed, adequate to the requirements of the neighbourhood, and of a style of architecture suitable to the improving tastes of the people, and in every way meet for the worship of God and Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The Rev. JACKSON WHAY, of Tottenham-court-road Chapel, preached the annual sermon of the society, selecting for his text Jonah iii. 2. The discourse abounded with vivid representations of the magnitude and rapid growth of London, of the influence which it exerts in commerce, politics, and literature, and of the deplorable spiritual condition of many of its inhabitants; and the preacher made a powerful appeal for aid in promoting the objects of the society.

The proceedings were brought to a close with the doxology and benediction.

ROTHERHAM AND AIREDALE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES.

THE annual fraternal meeting of the students of the above colleges was held on the 21st ult., at the Rotherham College. Dinner was served in the spacious dining-hall, and was followed by words of welcome from the Rev. Dr. Falding, principal, the Rev. Professor Tyte, the Rev. Professor Barker, and the Rev. J. C. Wilson (senior student), and graceful response was made on behalf of the Airedale guests by the Rev. Mr. Loxton (senior student). The company then adjourned to the library, where an address was delivered by the Rev. Professor Tyte. In his consideration of a suitable theme, he remarked, the most obvious thought, especially for one like himself who had been so long connected with that college, was this, how near they had come to solving the difficulty of the amalgamation of the Yorkshire Independent colleges—a question which had been long and deeply pondered by gentlemen who were able mathematicians and learned classics, intelligent laymen and earnest ministers. He would not say how many conferences had been held, but all to no purpose, they were obliged to give it up in despair. Here, however, was the very thing actually come about without any difficulty. He congratulated the students—for that meeting was significant—in the fact that it was a union between their two colleges, which were in no sense rivals, the only possible rivalry existing between these was as to who could most truly serve their common Master in their several stations. That, then, was a meeting, the Rev. Professor went on to say, of those whose sympathies with each other could not but be strong, as they were following the same pursuits, hindered by the same difficulties, filled with the same sacred purposes, and cherishing the same holy aspirations, brethren, indeed, in the truest sense. It appeared to him that they would not desire him to give them a formal professorial lecture, but a few friendly words, such as one might be able to offer who long ago concluded the novitiate they were now passing through, and had been for a considerable number of years actually engaged in the ministry. He reminded his hearers that they had set forth in life with the distinct purpose of being ministers of Christ in His churches. And this meant with them as Nonconformists that they were each pre-

paring to take the office of preacher, teacher, pastor, and ruler. It must be confessed that it was a rare thing to find a man equally competent in each capacity, and yet each of them was expecting to take the responsibility of each of these offices. Fortunately, or otherwise, they only recognised one order of ministers who preached and taught and cared for each flock; each minister was evangelist, teacher, pastor, and overseer all at once. This looked formidable when looked at from a distance, and they would perhaps ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" But they had this advantage—none of them would be taken by surprise if called upon to take charge of these offices. And the obvious reflection at this point was that they should make this part of their preparation for their future career, not merely by becoming competent scholars, though this was an invaluable element in their preparation, but he spoke just then of the moral preparation. He supposed that more ministers failed, or at least became unhappy in the ministry, by neglecting this feature in their preparation than by any other. They should not forget, then, that in regard to this point this was the time of preparation. He strongly advised his audience not to read their sermons, as the practice had in the first place a bad origin, and was not the most effective mode of work at any time, and in conclusion reminded them that they had not only to teach and preach, but to administer and rule over human nature, which was a most awkward thing to deal with, especially if their own idea of ruling was having everything their own way. The secret of ruling was to let other people have their way. As Nonconformist ministers they had only moral means of ruling; they had no such thing as a Church Court to appeal to, but had to rely upon their own moral power. They would meet with some people so antagonistic and awkward that the most exemplary patience might fail, and self-assertion in such cases most certainly would. He was the most successful minister who most fully realised and embodied the principle of which he had spoken. The students expressed their gratitude at the close of the address by loud and prolonged applause. The Professor then retired, and the remainder of the programme, consisting of songs, recitations, and readings, by guests and hosts in turn, was carried out, and a happy day of reunion was soon afterwards brought to a close. Much regret was felt and expressed at the absence of Dr. Fairbairn, Principal of Airedale College, and Professors Duff and Shearer, through illness and other causes.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

CITY OF LONDON.—The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker has issued an address "to the electors and non-electors of the City of London," in which he says it has long appeared to him "desirable that there should be a number of men in Parliament whose training and occupation especially qualify them to deal practically with the religious progress and necessities of the country." He summarises his political opinions as follows:—Parliamentary government, more constitutional than irresponsible Cabinetism; Disestablishment by development, the best guarantee against priestism and injustice; a peasant proprietary, one of the strongest securities against discontent and anarchy; impartial arbitration, the most rational substitute for strikes at home and wars abroad; civil and religious liberty all over the world, the highest end of magnanimous and honest politics.

FINSBURY.—Negotiations have, it is said, been opened with a view of uniting all sections of the Liberal party, the Home Rulers, and Radical Associations in favour of the joint candidature of Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P., and Sir Andrew Lusk, M.P., for Finsbury, at the general election.

MARTLEBORNE.—A public meeting, convened by the Marylebone United Liberal Association, was held on Friday evening, at the St. Pancras Vestry Hall, in support of the candidature of Sir Thomas Chambers, M.P., and Mr. Daniel Grant for the representation of the borough. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., occupied the chair. The principal speaker was Mr. Gladstone, who, in the course of an address which extended to considerable length and dealt with many of the principal topics of the day, referred especially to the question of Home Rule, and pointed out the necessity of union amongst the Liberal party.

SOUTHWARK.—At a meeting of the Political Council of the Southwark Radical Club, held on Wednesday evening, it was unanimously resolved:—"That, inasmuch as the Two Hundred are still determined to refuse any coalition or compromise whatever with the Radical labour party in this borough, this Council recommends the running of a suitable Radical labour candidate at the pending general election, such candidate to be immediately selected and taken to the poll at all hazards." It is announced that the state of Colonel Beresford's health will prevent him from offering himself for re-election. Mr. Andrew Dunn has formally retired, and has received a cordial vote of thanks for his meritorious services from his committee, who are on the lookout for a second Liberal to run with Professor Thorold Rogers.

CHRISTCHURCH.—The Liberal party look upon the retirement of Sir Henry Wolf as an acknowledgment of their strength, and are confident of being able to carry their candidate, Mr. Horace Davy, Q.C.

COCKERMOUTH.—Mr. Edward Waugh, solicitor, of Cockermouth, has been adopted as the Liberal candidate for that borough at the general election, Mr. Fletcher, the sitting member, retiring.

SALISBURY.—Mr. Hughes's withdrawal from the candidature at Salisbury has been occasioned by a variety of causes, but the chief is said to be his difference with the Nonconformists, who did not want a Churchman so pronounced as Mr. Hughes. The Church party in Salisbury is generally Conservative, and the Liberal party generally Nonconformist. The pity is that Mr. Hughes ever accepted a candidature in which success was so improbable.

LISKEARD.—It is said that the Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie has consented to contest this Cornish borough against Mr. Courtney—Liberal against Liberal!

DEWSBURY.—A letter has been received by the local Liberal Association at Dewsbury from Mr. Serjeant Simon, declining to accede to a test ballot as between Mr. Wm. Hoyle, of Bury, their nominee, and himself, and saying he regards the proposition as an indignity. Mr. Simon says that he had hoped he should have been spared the pain, and the Liberals of England the scandal, of such a contest as is now before him. The responsibility will rest with those who, against Liberal public opinion throughout the country, and contrary to well-known established usage, without cause, and upon no public ground whatever, are seeking to change the representation.

LINCOLN.—At a meeting of the Liberal party at Lincoln, Mr. C. Seely and Mr. J. Hinde Palmer, Q.C., have been finally adopted as candidates.

ST. ANDREW'S BURGHS.—The Liberal Association in the St. Andrew's district of burghs have taken a *plébiscite* among their members for the purpose of selecting a candidate. Four candidates are in the field for the seat, which will be vacated at the dissolution by Mr. Edward Ellice, M.P., who retires. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Williamson agreed to submit their claims to the decision of the Association; Mr. Annesley and Mr. Bennett declined. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Williamson were, therefore, the only two candidates that were voted on. The result was—Mr. Williamson, 819; Mr. Campbell, 349. The Association numbers 1,700 members out of a constituency of 2,500.

LIVERPOOL.—The Executive of the Liberal Nine Hundred have unanimously ratified the choice of Lord Ramsay as the second Liberal candidate for the borough at the General Election.

LUDLOW.—Mr. Stephen Glyn, barrister, of London, has been adopted by the Liberals as their candidate.

KILKENNY.—For this seat, vacated by Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Smithwick, a Liberal, but not a Home Ruler, has been returned without opposition.

DROGHEDA.—The nomination for this borough took place on Friday, the candidates being Mr. Benjamin Whitworth, and Mr. McCoan, a London barrister and a Home Ruler. Mr. O'Connor Power and other prominent Nationalists have been in Drogheda, and canvassed earnestly for Mr. McCoan. There has been much wagering on the event. The polling took place on Tuesday, with the following result:—Mr. Whitworth (Liberal), 382; Mr. McCoan (Home Ruler), 181; majority for Mr. Whitworth, 201.

The Victoria (Philosophical) Institute has received a legacy of £100 under the will of the late Robert Napier, Esq.

SANSKRIT TEXTS IN JAPAN.—At a meeting of the Asiatic Society on the 16th inst., Professor F. Max Müller read a paper on the "Discovery of Sanskrit Texts in Japan." Chinese translations of Buddhist text-books, which can be traced back to a period prior to the Christian era are extant, and efforts have long been made by scholars to recover the original Sanskrit MSS. A book by Dr. Edkins, of the London Missionary Society, suggested to Professor Max Müller the desirability of prosecuting similar researches in Japan. Dr. Edkins' book contained a glossary of Chinese words, with their equivalents in Sanskrit, and transliterations of the Sanskrit words in Japanese. The Sanskrit words were represented in an alphabet closely resembling the old Nepalese alphabet, though disguised in a flowery style that made the Sanskrit letters look almost like Chinese. The existence of such a book proved that there must have been a time when it was useful to students in Japan, i.e., that there must have been a time when the Buddhist priests in Japan were able to read Sanskrit. A remarkable combination of circumstances has placed in Professor Max Müller's possession a Sanskrit text, written in the same old Nepalese alphabet, each word transliterated with Japanese letters, and translated into Chinese. The Japanese Minister, His Excellency Mori Arinori, who was present at the meeting, promised to lend every assistance in his power to recover, if possible, some more of these ancient Sanskrit texts.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

DOMESTIC.

At a Privy Council, held at Windsor, on Thursday, the lists of sheriffs for England and Wales were picked by her Majesty. Previous to the Council the Earl of Beaconsfield and the Duke of Richmond had audiences of the Queen.

The Empress Eugenie will leave Chislehurst on Good Friday, and proceed direct to Plymouth, at which port she will embark for South Africa. About ten days will be spent in Zululand.

The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* is being prepared to convey the Queen and Princess Beatrice about the 22nd inst., to Cherbourg, en route for Baveno. Her Majesty, after remaining a few weeks on the Continent, will return via Queenborough and Flushing.

The Prince of Wales paid a private visit to Cambridge on Thursday. On his arrival at the Guildhall he was much cheered. His Royal Highness subsequently dined with the members of the University Amateur Dramatic Society, in celebration of their twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in St. Petersburg on Saturday evening, and was received at the railway station by the Duchess of Edinburgh, the Czarewitch, the Grand Dukes Constantine and Alexis, Lord Dufferin, Count Loris Melikoff, General Zoureff, and the chief State officials. The route from the station to the Winter Palace was kept by detachments of troops. The Grand Duke Nicholas also arrived on Saturday evening.

It is stated that the Princess Louise, though much better, is still confined to her bed from the effects of her recent accident.

The Cabinet Council called for Saturday had to be postponed, in consequence of the protracted sitting of the House of Commons.

Lord Salisbury arrived at Arlington-street, on Tuesday afternoon, from Hatfield, having travelled by road. His lordship is somewhat better, but is still extremely weak.

Sir James Fergusson, of Kilkerran, Ayrshire, has been appointed Governor of Bombay in room of Sir Richard Temple. He is a staunch Conservative, and has filled various home and colonial posts under his party.

The scheme for supplying London with sea water has been before the House of Lords, and has been withdrawn.

It is said that the Home Rule members of the Reform Club, in return for the black-balling of Colonel Colthurst, will adopt a policy of retaliation. They will have recourse to obstruction, and blackball right and left, for the purpose of bringing about a change in the treatment of Home Rule candidates.

The suspension is announced of the Hull District Bank (Limited)—a small concern, with a subscribed capital of £83,841, of which only £27,947 is paid up. The effects of the failure will be of an extremely local and limited character, as the struggle of the institution for existence has been great from the first.

It is estimated that the Austrian Empress's visit to Ireland, the journeys to and fro, and concurrent expenses, will cost her upwards of £30,000.

Truth hears that one of the sons of the Grand Duke of Hesse and the late Princess Alice will come to England after Easter to join the Britannia as a naval cadet.

The Rowland Hill Memorial Fund amounts to close on £16,000, and at a meeting of the promoters in the Mansion House, the sub-committee was appointed to arrange the methods of expending it.

The death is announced of the "Countess of Derwentwater," the lady who laid claim to the vast estates which formerly belonged to the Derwentwater family, and whose eccentric conduct in the prosecution of her claim has kept her constantly before the public for some years past.

A service of plate, value £800, was on Thursday privately presented to the Bishop of Manchester, on the occasion of his marriage, from the clergy of his diocese. The committee having charge of the general presentation from the laity of the diocese have not yet determined what form their memorial shall take.

An electoral conference of the London auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance was held on Thursday at the Holborn Town Hall. It was resolved to support by vote and active efforts the return of Parliamentary candidates, irrespective of party, who would vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution for local option, and to take active steps with a view to the effective representation in the next Parliament of the principles embodied in the constitution of the Alliance.

Lady Hewitt, the wife of Admiral Sir William Hewitt, K.C.B., of Southsea, has just met with an unfortunate accident. She was feeding a favourite parrot, when her attention being momentarily diverted, the bird bit the forefinger of her right hand, and blood poisoning having supervened, the finger had to be amputated.

As the London express to Newcastle-on-Tyne was nearing Gateshead on Friday morning it was found that two "chairs" had been keyed on to the rails. The train forced the obstruction without leaving the rails. A goods train had passed just before.

Some extraordinary evidence was given at the Tay Bridge inquiry on Friday by a number

of men who had been engaged in painting the girders. Several of them deposed to having noticed empty bolt holes, and one of these witnesses, whose ordinary trade was stated to be that of a mill overseer, said the holes which he saw should have had bolts in them. He found bolts in holes where rivets should have been. He also saw rivets wanting heads, and the opinion he formed was that the heads had sprung. Besides this, he saw two of the diagonal bars used for supporting the vertical columns hanging down and held together by only one rivet. The existence of fractured diagonal bars was spoken to by another witness, who also deposed to having seen a column rent, as he thought, from top to bottom.

Owing to the great demand for potatoes for seed purposes in Ireland, the price of this esculent is rapidly rising.

The Navy estimates for 1880-81 have been issued. The total sum required is £10,492,935, which is a decrease of £93,959 upon the vote of last year.

It appears from an account issued, that of the vote of credit for one and a-half millions with reference to the South African war, £880,000 remains unspent, and will be surrendered to the Exchequer. The £2,800,000 remaining unspent of the six million vote granted during the Russo-Turkish war has been surrendered to the Exchequer.

A large gathering was held last week in Birmingham Town Hall, on the occasion of a presentation to Alderman Jesse Collings, ex-Mayor of Birmingham, in recognition of the services he had rendered to the town during his late mayoralty. The presentation consisted of a portrait and address, signed by 5,000 subscribers, chiefly artisans, acknowledging his endeavours to promote the enjoyment and well-being of the people, more especially by the institution of free concerts; by his services in the cause of free speech at public meetings; and his benevolence in heading and promoting a fund for the relief of local distress. The address was presented by Mr. Judge, and was acknowledged by Mr. Collings. Other speeches were made, among them one by Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., who said he had come down from London expressly to be present on that occasion, and who cited the demonstration as conclusive evidence that democracies were not always fickle or ungrateful.

At Paisley, the other day, Sir Peter Coats laid the memorial-stone of the new Good Templars' hall. The buildings are in the Italian style, and include a hall capable of accommodating 1,000 persons, and lesser apartments with accommodation for 200 and 250 persons respectively. The site cost £1,550, and the estimates for the building amount to £7,000.

Mr. Plimsoll, in an address to his constituents, states that the reasons why he so fully exonerated Sir Charles Russell and Mr. Onslow was his belief that those gentlemen did not put the notices on the order-book, but that they were put there without their knowledge or consent. Both the hon. Members have repudiated this interpretation in the House of Commons.

At Sheffield, on Saturday (says the *Echo*), a girl, who was charged with stealing a handkerchief, value one shilling (her first offence), was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. A provision merchant, convicted of obtaining goods under false pretences, and whose creditors have been done out of £5,000, was let off with three months.

Councillor Jacoby on Monday proposed a resolution at the Nottingham Town Council favourable to the opening of the Castle Museum of Art on Sunday. There were twenty-four votes for and thirty against the motion, which was consequently lost. Mr. Jacoby intends to persevere in his purpose.

On Tuesday morning Patrick Kearns and Hugh Burns, aged respectively 21 and 30, were executed at Kirkdale Gaol, near Liverpool, for the murder at Widnes, on the 24th of October, of Patrick Tracey, chemical labourer, whose wife is now lying under sentence of death for participation in the murder. She lies in the gaol awaiting her confinement. The execution took place in a heavy snow-storm, at about a quarter past eight o'clock. No reporters were admitted, the conditions restricting their discretion being declined. According to the hoisting of the black flag an unusual delay took place in the execution.

An exciting scene occurred at a fire in Lever-street, St. Luke's, on Sunday night. It consisted of the spectacle of a succession of leaps from the windows of the upper floor of the burning house by the inmates, who had no other means of escape, the lower part of the building being in flames. Among those who thus risked their lives on the chance of saving them was a woman who, it is stated, had been confined less than a week before the occurrence. She first threw two of her young children out to the crowd of spectators beneath, by whom they were caught, and jumped out after them, happily escaping without injury. It was then discovered that the baby had been forgotten, but this, too, was rescued by the gallantry of a fireman, who dragged it, partially suffocated, from the room in which it had been left. Two other persons jumped out of windows at the back of the house, both receiving injuries more or less severe, but fortunately not fatal.

It is stated that the Bill to allocate the six vacant seats which the Government intend to

introduce to the House of Commons on Thursday will place the English and Irish representation on the same footing that it held before the Acts of Disfranchisement were carried. No addition, therefore, will be made to the Scotch representation. The two vacant Irish seats are expected to fall, one to Dublin city or the rising port of Kingstown, which has a population of 20,000, and is now totally unrepresented, and the other to Cork County, the largest constituency in Ireland, exceeding even that of Down. The appropriation of the four English seats, it is understood, gave the Government considerable trouble; but is generally believed that Sheffield secures one additional seat, Bristol another, thus making two additional three-cornered constituencies. Accrington will probably get the third seat, while the fourth may go to a metropolitan home county.

The Cambridge University boat crew made their first appearance on the Thames at Kingston on Monday. The Oxford crew have taken up their quarters at Maidenhead, and both are expected at Putney early next week.

Under the presidency of the Lord Mayor the first exhibition of pictures brought together by the City of London Society of Artists, a society only recently formed, was successfully opened on Monday at the hall of the Skinners' Company, Dowgate-hill. The exhibition is the first of a projected series, which it is hoped will lead to the ultimate foundation of a permanent art gallery and art schools for the City of London.

Lord Clinton has resigned his office as one of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The average price of wheat as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise was 43s. per quarter, the average price of barley 35s. 2d. per quarter, and the average price of oats was 22s. 3d. The quantities sold were below the average.

According to a table drawn up by a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, who describes it as "a carefully compiled tabulated statement" of the number of looms engaged in the manufacture of cotton cloth in the principal towns and villages (Preston excepted), the number of looms working is 214,832, out of a total of 229,585, the number working short time 1,122, and the number stopped 13,631.

The Earl of Aberdeen has done a generous deed. Anxious to do what he can to abate the ill effects of the bad seasons of the last three years, he has notified that the half-year's rents of the whole of the tenantry on his extensive estates in Aberdeenshire, which are payable at Whitsuntide, will be entirely remitted.

There was a repetition on Sunday night of riotous proceedings at Chatham in connection with the Salvation Army. A mob of about a thousand people impeded the passage of the Army through the streets, and hooted and yelled. The disturbance was most disgraceful. Although many complaints are made of these uproars, our correspondent says the police authorities have taken no steps to suppress them.

FOREIGN.

The French Council of Ministers discussed on Saturday the question of the extradition of the Russian named Hartmann, who is suspected of being implicated in the attempt to blow up the Imperial train at Moscow. No decision, however, was come to in the matter. Prince Orloff has communicated to the French Government all the necessary documents in justification of the demand for Hartmann's extradition. Most of the Paris papers contend that such crimes as those committed at Moscow and at the Winter Palace must, according to the rules long recognised in Europe, be regarded as political offences. The French Cabinet has submitted the question to a committee of experts.

The general debate in the French Senate on M. Ferry's Superior Education Bill closed on Friday with a speech from M. Jules Simon, who maintained that Article 7 of the Bill was an attack upon the freedom of education. He concluded his speech by saying, "In the name of my Republican faith, I declare that to restrict the liberty of a father of a family is to attack the principle of liberty, and is a danger to the Republic." On Saturday the discussion of the clauses commenced. M. Eymard Duvernay, of the Republican Left, proposed a counter project. He objected to higher education in any but State schools, but proposed a system similar to the German *privat doctoren*. He also demanded that Article 7 should be struck out of the Bill. The scheme was, after some discussion, withdrawn, and the debate adjourned. The measure is considered as far from having surmounted its difficulties. There are many amendments yet to be discussed.

A meeting of the French Free Trade Association was held on Monday at the Chateau d'Eau Theatre. M. Joseph Garnier presided, and the meeting, after being addressed by M. Pascal Duprat and M. Raoul Duval, adopted a resolution demanding reduced Customs duties, the free importation of corn and cattle and raw materials, and increasingly liberal commercial treaties for the development of commerce with other nations.

The sentence on Otero, who attempted to assassinate the King of Spain, has been confirmed. He remains in irons in his cell until

his fate is decided. It seems probable that he will be reprieved.

An agent of the King of the Belgians will, it is reported, take over, on the 10th of next month, the six small steamers constructed in England which, after being taken asunder, are to be shipped at Liverpool for Congo, to be placed at the disposal of Mr. Stanley.

In Limburg, hitherto one of the strongholds of Belgian Clericalism, a Liberal Catholic Deputy has been elected, defeating an Ultramontane warmly supported by the priesthood.

The Pope held a consistory on Friday, at which the cardinal's hat was presented respectively to Cardinals Fürstenberg, Ferreira, Meglia, Cattani, and Sanguigni. His Holiness afterwards appointed several bishops.

Contrary to the reports recently circulated, it is declared that the negotiations between the Vatican and the German Government, through the intermediary of the Papal Nuncio in Vienna, are still in progress, and have been especially active during the last few days.

In Monday's sitting of the Italian Chamber, the Minister of Public Works announced the completion of the St. Gothard Tunnel, and the Chamber adopted a resolution expressing satisfaction at the accomplishment of the work.

The Pope has sent the sum of 16,000 lire (£2589 8s.) towards the relief of the distress in Ireland. The amount will be sent in equal portions to the four Roman Catholic archbishops, for distribution in the localities which they may deem most in need.

There are great complaints as to the increase of drunkenness in Italy, where for three years there has practically been free trade in public-houses, and demands are now made for the revival of former restrictions.

With respect to the alleged plot against the Sultan, it would appear, says a Constantinople telegram, that Papadopoulos never had any intention of attempting the life of the Sultan.

Colonel Syngé is still in the custody of the audacious brigands, up among the mountains in the neighbourhood of Salonica. It is said the fellows, knowing that the Colonel had been appointed agent for the distribution of a relief fund among the Mahomedan refugees, imagined that he must have a lot of money at his farm. They were disappointed in this, for they got next to nothing; and so they captured him and his wife as likely to produce some compensation for their disappointment. Plans have been concocted, and doubtless are now being wrought out, for the release of the captives, and good hopes are entertained that they will be successful.

Mahmoud Damad Pacha has embarked at Tschesme for Constantinople. Two vessels have been sent by the Turkish Admiralty to escort him hither.

The opposition of the Albanians to the cession of Gusinje continues. The camp near Gusinje, it is reported, contains 10,000 armed Albanians.

The Bulgarian elections have resulted unfavourably to the Government party. The Opposition has a large majority.

A fact for Mr. Plimsoll! The steamer *Hindoo*, from New York to Hull, with grain in bulk, was abandoned in a sinking state on the 22nd February. Three of the crew were lost. The rest were rescued by the Anchor Line steamer, *Alexandria*, and taken to New York. It seems that the grain shifted during a violent storm, and that it was impossible to right the ship.

Mr. Sprigg, the Premier and Colonial Secretary at the Cape, has informed his constituents that a series of resolutions respecting the confederation of the South African colonies will be submitted to the House of Assembly when it meets again, and that a conference of delegates from the Cape Colony, Natal, the Transvaal, and Griqualand West, will be summoned to discuss the scheme. He also said that the Government was determined to cause the disarmament of the Basutos to be carried out, and that it was intended to introduce a bill for extending the railway system of the colony.

The Boers' Committee will meet at Potchefstroom on March 8th, to consider the course to be pursued with reference to the recent arrests of Messrs. Bok and Pretorius.

A Melbourne telegram announces that the elections to the Victorian Parliament have resulted in the defeat of the Government. Mr. Berry and his colleagues have resigned.

The "Grant boom" in the United States is steadily increasing in volume. The delegates already accredited to the Republican Convention at Chicago include 124 for Grant, 15 for Blaine, 10 for Mr. Edmunds, 2 for Secretary Sherman, and 16 "untrammeled."

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AT CALSTOCK, CORNWALL.—Another sharp contest has just taken place in connection with the triennial election of the Calstock School Board. There were ten candidates for seven seats, and the parish had, therefore, to be polled. The result is that three Churchmen and four Nonconformists have been elected. At their first meeting on March 1st, the Rev. D. Cork, pastor of the Baptist church at Calstock and Metherill, was elected as chairman for the ensuing term of office, he having been a member of the Board during the two previous terms. Mr. J. Annear, who is a Wesleyan, has been appointed as vice-chairman.

GLEANINGS.

"You just take a bottle of my medicine," said a quack doctor to an invalid, "and you'll never cough again." "Is it so fatal as that?" gasped the poor man.

A clergyman, in speaking of one of his parishioners who was so given to argument that it was difficult to converse with him on any subject, said: "Brother—is so argumentative that he will dispute with a guide-post about the distance to the next town, and argue with a tombstone as to the truth of its epitaph."

Husband: "Why did you get three pairs of shoes, wife? I'm afraid you will not live to wear them out." Wife: "Well, your second wife can wear them out if I don't." Husband: "Oh! she has a very delicate foot."

If, says the *Chicago Tribune*, children were taught to say "mother" instead of "ma," the blood-curdling cry of a young goat in the adjoining field would never cause an anxious parent to rush out and see what was the matter with her darling.

In a parish church near Montrose a somewhat novel announcement was made on a recent Sunday evening. The pulpit was occupied by the pastor of a neighbouring parish, who after sermon and prayer startled the congregation by announcing that amongst other ecclesiastical events there would, on a certain day and on a certain farm, be a sale of household furniture and stock by warrant of the Sheriff.

TAKEN AT HIS WORD.—The fair sex in Guernsey are not to be trifled with. At a fancy-dress ball given there recently by the subalterns of an infantry regiment, a lady noted for originality was brought by chance to the side of one of the chief military authorities of the place. Said she to Colonel Z.: "May I ask, Colonel, what you are?" "Oh," answered the Colonel, who was evidently not in one of his happy moods, "I am nothing? What are you?" "I am next to nothing," was the prompt rejoinder.

THE WAG OF HIS TAIL.—"I say, squire, what'll you take for that ere dog o' your'n?" said a Yankee pedlar to an old Dutch farmer. "Two dollars," said the Dutchman; but dere's one t'ing about dat dog I can't sell." "O! take off his collar; I don't want that," suggested the pedlar. Tain't dat," replied Mynheer; "he's a boor dog, but I will not sell de wag of his tail ven I comes home."

THE NEW STYLE OF WEDDING CELEBRATIONS.—Quiet, unpretentious weddings are much more in favour now than they ever were, for I think some years ago no one ever heard of a bride without a veil, a wreath, and a bridesmaid, unless it was a runaway marriage and meant to be kept dark. Now the fashion is quite in favour to make no more of getting married than an ordinary going to church; and in many cases, especially in London, where everything must be very stately if not absolutely simple, I think the practice a wise one. The movement that has been set going to alter the canonical hours of a wedding, making it legal at any time of the day, instead of only before noon, as it is now, will, if successful, do much to change the character of wedding parties. An early morning occasion, such as a wedding is at present, seems always to me unsuitable for the display of gay and light and flimsy dresses, such as the bridesmaids are usually condemned to wear; and there is something incongruous on a foggy winter morning to see white satin shoes and masses of fluffy finery tripping along the aisle of a dark, dismal London church. Were the same celebration later in the day, the inconsistency would not exist. Any one who has had to play hostess on the occasion of a wedding can testify to the anxiety of the weary hours which intervene between the wedding breakfast and the evening festivities, if such are attempted; the impossibility of knowing what to do with guests who are left on hand and want amusing, the utterly exhausting nature of the whole prolonged performance. If, instead of rising with the lark and beginning the onerous duties of the day long before noon, in order to accomplish the great event with legal punctuality, the house might maintain its normal aspect till lunch-time, the relief would be great to the elders of the party, and there would be no possible objection to gala attire and wedding favours of any size. No wonder that so many ladies prefer to be married in plain walking dress, and to dispense with a bridal party altogether. I have often thought that the elaborate wedding breakfast, which is at best a very doubtful pleasure, might well be postponed till the return of the wedded couple from their honeymoon, and then given as a luncheon or dinner by the bride's parents to welcome their children home, and to receive the congratulations of their friends.—*PENELOPE*, in *Bristol Mercury*.

DR. RICHARDSON ON HEALTH AND DRESS.—Dr. B. W. Richardson delivered a lecture on Monday evening, at the London Institution, Finsbury-circus, upon the subject of Dress in relation to health. The theatre of the institution was filled to its utmost capacity, and the lecturer was applauded at frequent intervals by an attentive audience. At the outset Dr. Richardson repudiated any intention to deprecate good fashion or good change of fashion in dress. He thought, with Mrs. Haweis, that it was the bounden duty of

every woman to look as handsome as she could, and to maintain her beauty as long as possible, for nothing was more beautiful than beauty in old age. (Hear, hear.) Fashions, as a rule, were dictated by vain and ignorant persons who set nature at defiance, as though they were nature and she an idiot. (Laughter.) What was wanted in the reform of dress was good fashion for both sexes, and for every day life some uniform costume that should tend to bind more closely together the various classes of the community. With regard to the mechanical adaptation of dress to the body, the most serious error was tightness by which pressure was brought to bear upon any particular part, such as the neck, feet, and limbs. The corset was opposed to all that was healthful and all that was beautiful, keeping as it did the heart and the adjoining organs under suppression. No subjection to which women were liable could be greater than that which they voluntarily inflicted on themselves by wearing these articles, which deadened their mental capability as well as their vital energy. Waistbands, garters, and tight shoes, or shoes with pointed toes, were also very prejudicial to health. Belts interfered with respiration, and, moreover, among working men who wore belts, it was the rule rather than the exception for hernia to supervene, while bad boots were responsible for misshapen feet among nine-tenths of the English community. Women's dresses should be loose, and should be supported from the shoulders as was usually the case with male attire. Indeed, faulty as it was in an artistic point of view, man's dress had greatly improved in these latter days, and was, in relation to health, perfection as compared with that of women. He suggested that the dress of women ought to be—although of lighter materials—the same as that of the opposite sex, with the exception of the exterior robe or gown, which should play the same part as the outer coat of a man. In regard to hats, the "gipsy" bonnet was very becoming for women, while the chimney-pot hat worn by men was light and healthy, and far superior to some descriptions of felt hats, which were, in a hygienic point of view, bad and hideous to look at. The best and most simple of all was the fine old Swiss cap sometimes called the Leonardo da Vinci. One of these, a limp black velvet cap with flaps, was exhibited by Dr. Richardson, who stated that he himself wore one as graduate of a Scotch university, where the original one was supposed to have been made from John Knox's breeches. It was especially necessary to adapt one's clothing to the season of the year, as it had been proved by the late Mr. Milnes that the body undergoes two pounds waste in the autumn and two pounds increase in the spring. Waterproof clothing was injurious to the system, as were also in another way the aniline and other dyes now prevalent. The best colour for dress in warm or cold weather was white, which might be modified to light gray as less liable to get dirty, while black was the worst. It was satisfactory to think that mourning was slowly falling into disuse, for, after "suttee," it was almost the saddest of miseries inflicted by society on the already miserable. Dr. Richardson concluded by pointing out the necessity for cleanliness in all wearing apparel, and by commenting on the utter inefficiency of the laundry system in London and other large towns.

THE MONUMENT TO PRINCE LOUIS NAPOLEON.—The elaborate reply of Dean Stanley to the deputation that waited upon him to protest against the erection of a monument in Westminster Abbey to the young Prince who lost his life in Zululand has not silenced the opponents of the scheme. Mr. George Fordham continues to publish the names of public men who disapprove of it, and the Dean confesses that he was in error in assuming that Mr. Carlyle was not opposed to it. At a special meeting of the General Council of Radical Workmen's Clubs and Associations, held on Monday, it was resolved that a Conference be held on Monday, March 8, at 8 p.m., and a general invitation be issued to the various political organisations, trade societies, &c., and others, to obtain a united protest against the proposed memorial, and to receive suggestions thereon to lay before the Conference. The Combined Political Committee of the four Radical Clubs of Chelsea passed the following resolution at their last meeting:—"That this committee condemns the action of Dean Stanley in consenting to the erection of a memorial in Westminster Abbey to the ex-Prince Imperial of France—a memorial which cannot be regarded in any sense as a national one, and which is calculated to disturb the present goodwill existing between the two nations, and to encourage opposition to the settled Government of France." A Paris paper (the *Pays*) asserts that at the late visit of the Queen to Chislehurst Her Majesty was pleased to assure the ex-Empress agent that no pressure, no action whatever, would make her change her resolution to have a monument to Prince Louis Napoleon in Westminster Abbey, and that the most positive orders had been given to Dean Stanley on the subject. The *Pays* is M. Paul de Cassagnac's paper.

News of the Free Churches.

CONGREGATIONAL.

— Mr. Horace E. Crighton, of Cheshunt College, has become the pastor of the church at Godalming.

— Mr. J. A. Board (late of New College) has accepted the pastorate of the church at Melksham, Wilts.

— The Rev. M. A. Wilkinson, after a ministry of four years, has resigned the pastorate of the church at Lutterworth.

— The sum of £20 was raised for the Haggerstone Soup Kitchen after sermons preached at Hoxton Academy Chapel, by the Rev. C. Fleming Williams.

— The Rev. J. W. H. Saell, pastor of Bethel Church, Cheshire, Staff., has been presented with a certificate of life membership on the Pastors' Retiring Fund.

— At the annual meeting of the church at Wiveliscombe (Rev. R. Adams, pastor), it was mentioned that the weekly offerings during the past year had amounted to £117 19s. 1d.

— Mr. W. T. Hailes, superintendent of the King's Weigh House Sunday school Band of Hope, was presented, at a meeting on the 25th ult., with a writing desk, in recognition of his services.

— The Rev. Henry Baker was recognised on the 19th ult. as pastor of the church at Liskeard. Addresses of welcome were given by Professor Chapman, the Revs. H. Young, J. Turner (Wesleyan), and J. Kitchener (Baptist).

— The ordination of the Rev. S. Harker, as pastor of the church at Cockfield and Thorpe, Suffolk, took place on the 24th ult. The Revs. J. Jenkins W. H. Cole, G. H. White, W. D. Attock, and J. W. Green took part in the services.

— The Rev. J. Mountain has just concluded a mission at the Evangelical Union Church, Galashiels (Rev. J. C. Nesbitt, pastor). "Great interest," says a correspondent, "has been awakened in Divine things, and a successful work done."

— The church at Holy Walk, Leamington, was reopened for Divine service on the 29th ult., when two sermons were preached by the Rev. E. Wallis Jones, of Southgate, London. On the previous Thursday a church was formed on Congregational principles.

— A Busy Bee Society, for small children, has been established in connection with Euclid-avenue Church, Cleveland, Ohio, United States. The children meet every fortnight to contribute their pence, and to study the geography, history, and missions of different fields.

— The Rev. W. P. Dothie, M.A., has been compelled by the state of his health to give notice of his intention to resign his pastorate at West Dulwich, to the great regret of the church and congregation. His ministry in that place will close on the last Sunday in April.

— The Rev. E. A. Arthur, pastor of the church at West Hook, delivered an interesting lecture to a large assembly on the 26th ult., on "Martin Luther, the Miner's Boy." G. Harries, Esq., who was prevented presiding, sent £5 in aid of the fund for which the lecture was given.

— The Rev. J. Calvert, of Beccles, announced to his congregation recently that a new organ, built by an eminent London firm, had been purchased by the committee appointed to superintend the renovation of the interior of the chapel, and that it would be ready for use in August next.

— At Poplar, on Wednesday evening, February 25th, Marianne Farnham delivered a lecture on the "Rush and the Hush of Life," in the Town Hall. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Jas. Chadburn, as President of the Trinity Mutual Improvement Society. The hall was crowded with a large and appreciative audience.

— A recognition service was held at More on Wednesday, Feb. 25, in connection with the settlement of the pastor, the Rev. W. Summers. At the public meeting in the evening the Rev. T. Mann presided, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. Clark, J. E. Dwyer, W. Clarkson, W. Jackson, F. W. Clarke, and H. G. Hastings.

— The church at Oxton-road, Birkenhead (Rev. S. Heister, pastor) has been making an effort to remove a small debt which remained upon its various institutions. On Sunday week a circular was issued to the seat-holders, and last Sunday the offering was taken, amounting to over £70. This entirely removes the debt, and leaves a small balance.

— The Rev. F. Mann, on leaving Albion Chapel, Nottingham, was presented by Mr. Alderman Burgess, one of the deacons, in the name of the church and congregation, with a timepiece and a purse of 30 sovereigns in testimony of the esteem in which he is held. He at the same time received a photographic album, the gift of the Senior Girls' Bible-class.

— The Rev. L. Lyons, an agent minister of the American Board of Foreign Missions, in the Hawaiian Islands, who, for the last seven years, has translated the International Sunday-school Lessons into the Hawaiian language, was presented by the Sunday-schools of that people, at a celebration recently held, with a testimonial of regard amounting to £240.

— The Rev. Stuart J. Reid has accepted the pastorate of the church at Wilmsham, and hopes to begin his ministry there on the third Sunday in April. Mr. Reid was educated at Cheshunt College, and became the minister of the Higher Broughton Church in June, 1875. His father, the Rev. Alexander Reid, has been the minister of the church at Newcastle-on-Tyne for upwards of fifty years.

— The annual meeting of the members of the church at Halesworth took place on Thursday last, Rev. A. A. Dowsett, the pastor, presiding. The roll of members had increased, and now amounts to 165. The Sabbath-schools, including the associated branches at Walpole and Wissett, contain 428 scholars. About £360 was raised for ordinary purposes, besides £240 towards the debt on the new school-rooms, which is now only £120.

— The Rev. E. T. M. Inglis, late of Thame, was publicly recognised, on the 24th ult., as pastor of the church at Maidenhead. The Rev. W. M. Statham, of London, preached; and Dr. Newth, of New College, gave a statement of Congregational principles. Revs. A. Moorns, J. J. Goodby, Thomas Orr, C. Talbot, and S. Patten took part in the services. At the tea, addresses were given by the ex-Mayor, Richard Silver (who presided), James Marsh and J. D. M. Pearce, Esqrs.

— The annual meeting of Elgin-place Church, Glasgow (Rev. A. Goodrich, pastor) was held on the 19th ult. The report stated that during the year 103 members had been received into church fellowship. Besides £733 special subscriptions for mission buildings, there had been raised for missions and societies £1,318, and for church funds £1,457. An additional missionary had been engaged, and a mission fellowship had been formed. The number of Sunday scholars on the roll is 1,354.

— Mr. George Stratford, who has been for twenty-five years an active worker in the Sunday-school at California, Ipswich, in connection with the chapel of which the Rev. Wickham Tozer is pastor, and has for a large part of that time been superintendent, was, on the 24th ult., presented with a marble timepiece and an illuminated address, expressive of the high regard in which his services are held and the regret which was felt that the state of his health had compelled his retirement. Mr. Stratford very feelingly acknowledged the presentation.

— The Rev. D. B. Hooke, on the completion of ten years' ministry at Mold, was presented, at a social meeting on the 24th ult., with a certificate of membership in the "Pastors' Retiring Fund." It was stated that during his pastorate the £900 debt on the church had been paid off, and there had been a new school and manse, erected at a cost of nearly £2,000, a branch church formed at Northop, and a mission school established at Bromfield. Congratulatory addresses were given by the Revs. Roger Edwards, P. W. Darnton, T. Roberts, and others.

— The church at Charnmouth, which dates back to Ejection times, held its anniversary on the 26th ult. A most satisfactory report of the year's work was given by the pastor, Rev. F. Clarke. During his six years' ministry the building has been renovated externally and internally, the gallery repewed, the congregation increased, and many additions made to the church. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. U. B. Randall on "Giving," T. Neave on "Nonconformity," S. Giblett on "The Duties of Nonconformist Parents," and J. Ogle on "Success."

— The annual meeting of the parents of the scholars at Park Chapel Sunday-schools, Camden Town, was held on Tuesday, February 24th, when about 450 were present. After tea a meeting was held; the report was read by the secretary (Mr. Williams), showing that there were 72 officers, 200 teachers, and 912 scholars, of whom nearly 200 were over 15 years of age, that 46 scholars were church members, and that 21 had joined the church during 1879. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. C. Harrison, Mr. Ernest Wench, superintendent of the boys' school, and Mr. H. Bowen.

— The annual meeting of the Sunday-school at South Hackney was held on Monday evening last, and was made specially interesting this year by the fact of its being also a meeting to welcome the newly-elected pastor, Rev. J. W. Rogers. There was a large attendance. The chair was taken by W. Marten Smith, Esq., of Clapham, and addresses were delivered by the pastor and his father, the Rev. J. G. Rogers, of Clapham. Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of Stepney, Rev. Professor Christie, of Hackney College, Rev. John Thomas, Mr. Holmes, of the Sunday-school Union, Mr. F. D. Collen, and other members of the church.

— The anniversary sermons of the Sunday-schools connected with Cannon-street Church, Preston, were preached on the 29th ult. by the Rev. W. Antliff, D.D., Principal of the Primitive Methodist College, Sunderland, the pastor's father. These being the first special services held in the chapel since the secession of the late pastor (Rev. H. J. Martyn) to the Established Church, unusual interest was felt in them. The congregations numbered 1,000 persons, and in the afternoon, when the pastor, Rev. S. R. Antliff, addressed the scholars and friends, no fewer than 1,300 were present. The collections realised over £107, the largest ever made in the chapel.

— The Rev. P. W. Darnton, B.A., has resigned the pastorate of Queen-street Church, Chester, and accepted the ministerial charge of Hope Chapel, Wigan. The Chester Chronicle says:—"Mr. Darnton, during his residence in the city, has been very successful in his ministry, and has always taken an active share in the support of the various undenominational, charitable, and philanthropic institutions of the city. In this service he was rendered hearty aid by Mrs. Darnton, and both will be greatly missed when they leave us. Their names are closely associated with the Boatmen's Bethel, the anniversary of the opening of which was celebrated last week, and it is mainly owing to their instrumentality that that useful institution is now in existence."

— The quarterly meeting of the Montgomeryshire Association, held at Welshpool on the 19th ult., adopted a resolution, in which, while declaring that the appointment of the proposed Confidential Committee "would neither in principle nor in practice militate against the acknowledged Independent order of our Church polity," and fully appreciating "the valuable assistance and benefits which might accrue, to pastors and churches, from the action of such a committee," the opinion was expressed that "the adoption of such a system would be a deviation from a long-established custom observed between ministers and churches of our denomination, and be liable to misconception and difference of opinion, the result of which would be anything but desirable."

— The eighth anniversary of church and pastorate was celebrated at Victoria Docks Union Church, (Rev. Josiah Foster, pastor) on the 24th ult. James Duncan, Esq., presided at the public meeting, and addresses were given by Revs. E. T. Egg, J. Knaggs, J. L. Pearce, T. Stevens, and other friends. The pastor's report stated that 16 new members had been received in the past year, making 218 during his eight years' ministry. The Sunday-school numbers 700, taught by 45 teachers. A total abstinence society has just been established in connection with the church which already numbers 59 pledged members, the pastor's name figuring first on the pledge-book. A new lecture-hall and class-rooms have been erected during last year at the sole expense of J. Duncan, Esq.

— A thanksgiving service was held on the 24th ult., in the Westboro' Church, Maidstone, to commemorate the extinction of the whole debt. The Rev. R. Laver (pastor) stated that the building of the church was inaugurated April 14, 1874, and the entire cost, including land and school-rooms, was £5,298. F. Pine, Esq., took the chair, and was supported by Revs. J.

Birdseye, P. Storey, G. Walker, A. F. Muir, E. H. Holmes, G. M. Gunn, and W. Harris, who heartily congratulated the pastor on the completion of so difficult a work. The generous help of the English Chapel-Building Society was acknowledged; and the great kindness of J. Finch, Esq., one of the founders of the cause, S. Morley, Esq., and others, was cordially recognised. The chairman, who has been a warm friend to the movement from the commencement, promised help to the manse, which he hoped would be begun very soon.

— The Rev. R. Berry, presiding at the annual meeting of the church at Luton on the 24th ult., mentioned that 233 members had been admitted into church fellowship during his ministry of five years and seven months; the church roll now numbered 343; the total numbers enrolled since the commencement of the church fifteen years ago was 670. In the Sunday-school there are upwards of 500 scholars, with about 50 teachers, connected with the school are a Band of Hope and a Band of Mercy. The Mutual Improvement Society numbers about 400 members; and 21 friends are engaged in tract distribution. The treasurer, Mr. Webster, mentioned that the total income for all purposes during the year had been a little over £800. Regretting that Mr. Berry had decided to remove to London, he testified to the kindly sympathy with which he was regarded by all the members of the church and congregation. The Revs. E. Moulton (Wesleyan), R. E. Forsaith, and Dr. McAluslane also delivered addresses.

— The annual soiree of the congregation of Bethany Church, Bernard-street, Glasgow, was held on Friday 27th ult., when the pastor, Rev. Robert Dey, was supported on the platform by Revs. J. Douglas, D. Jamieson, and J. Graham, Glasgow; Rev. D. Beaton, Coatbridge, and several of the office-bearers. The reports presented showed that 142 members had been added during the year; that 900 young persons were attending the Sabbath schools and Bible-classes; and that a large amount of aggressive mission work was being conducted in the district. The sum of £954 had been expended during the year in the maintenance of the various agencies of the church and the repair of the buildings. Of this sum £250 had been raised by a bazaar and subscriptions at the New Year. The best thanks of the congregation are due to Dr. Cameron, M.P., Revs. Dr. Fergusson, D. Russell, A. Goodrich, &c., and to Geo. Skinner, Esq., Glasgow, and many friends over the country, for promoting and aiding the church in this enterprise.

— The funeral of the Rev. John Marshall, late pastor of the church at Over, took place on the 24th ult., in the burial-ground adjoining the chapel. Almost every house and shop in Over had some indication of mourning, and amongst those present in the Congregational Chapel, during the funeral service, was the Rev. E. Woodruff, vicar of St. John's, Over. Mr. Thomas Rigby, for thirty-five years an intimate friend of the deceased, delivered an address, in which he referred to the fact that Mr. Marshall, who had attained the ripe age of eighty-four years, and was the oldest minister in Chester, had lived at Over sixty-five years, and had exercised the whole course of his ministry over one church, to the pastorate of which he was ordained in 1820. Mr. Rigby referred to the fact that Mr. Marshall, by a long and consistent Christian life, had won respect for the principle of a voluntary sustenance of religious teaching. T. Rev. J. Irving took part in the service in the chapel, and the Rev. G. K. Walker read the service at the grave. The grave of the venerable minister, says a local paper, is "under the shadows of the tall poplar trees he had himself planted more than fifty years before, when a young man, full of life and energy."

— The Rev. S. R. Antliff, late of Accrington, was recognised on the 1st inst. as pastor of the Cannon street Church, Preston. Tea having been served in the school adjoining, a public meeting was held in the chapel. In the absence of the senior deacon, J. Bryning, Esq., J.P., through the infirmity of age, the senior acting deacon, D. McKittrick, Esq., presided, and stated the circumstances attending the giving of the call to Mr. Antliff, and welcomed him to the church. A deputation from the pastor's late church—Messrs. Councillor Lee and Duckworth, sec., spoke of the unanimous respect and affection in which he was held by the friends in Accrington. Letters of apology for absence through other engagements having been read from Rev. R. M. Davies, secretary of Lancashire County Union, and other friends, fraternal addresses were given by Revs. J. Clough and J. Lambert, the ministers of the other Congregational churches in Preston; Revs. Chas. Williams, of Accrington, and F. Bugby, of Manchester (Baptists); and Rev. Dr. Antliff, of Sunderland. There was a large and enthusiastic meeting, and great hopes of success are entertained by the Preston friends. The singing was led by a united choir of the three churches in the town, and anthems were sung at intervals.

BAPTIST.

— The Rev. J. W. Norton has resigned his charge at Enon Chapel, Chatham.

— Chilwell College has been presented with an American organ by an anonymous friend.

— A plot of land for the erection of a new General Baptist Chapel has been secured at Kimberley.

— On Sunday last the Rev. F. Forbes, of Lochgilphead, was inducted to the pastorate of the church at Alloa.

— A new iron chapel is being erected at New Shirland, Derbyshire. Mr. R. Saunders, of Queen's-road, Dalston, is the builder.

— The Rev. D. Cork, pastor of the church at Calstock, Cornwall, and Metherrill, Cornwall, has been elected chairman of the Calstock School Board.

— The Rev. J. E. Henderson, who has recently returned to Jamaica, reports the receipt of nearly £80 special contributions for the Enoneto Bay Chapel.

— The Rev. M. Cumming has resigned the pastorate of the church at New Barnet, Herts, and accepted that of the church at Garland-street, Bry St. Edmunds.

— The Rev. A. G. Brown last week received special thank-offerings amounting to £31 from members of the East London Tabernacle Church, in commemoration of its eighth anniversary.

— Towards the reduction of the anticipated increase of the Missionary Society's debt, a contribution of £103 has just been received from Mr. Charles Finch

Foster, of Cambridge. The financial year closes at the end of the current month.

— We are glad to be able to announce that the Rev. Dr. Wenger, who has for some time past been prostrated at Cuttack, India, with an attack of illness which it was feared would prove fatal, is gradually recovering, and has been able to return to Calcutta.

— Mr. George Coats, on resigning the superintendence of the school connected with the church at Paisley (Rev. O. Flett pastor), has just been presented with a handsome gold watch and timepiece as tokens by the past and present teachers of their appreciation of his services.

— W. Willis, Esq., Q.C., LL.D., one of the Liberal candidates for the borough of Colchester, gave a lecture on Thursday, February 28, in Burlington Chapel schoolroom, Ipswich, on "Robert Hall." The chair was occupied by C. H. Cowell, Esq., a Liberal Churchman.

— After considerable enlargement, the chapel at Stoke was reopened for worship on Thursday last. The Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, preached morning and evening, the collections realising £19. Additional accommodation for 300 has been provided, at a total cost of about £1,300.

— By the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey, the widow of the late Mr. John Bailey, of Sheffield, amongst other legacies falling due under the will of the latter, the Baptist Missionary Society benefits to the extent of £450, while the London, the Wesleyan, and the Moravian Societies will receive a similar amount.

— The latest news in regard to the Congo Mission is cheering. Messrs. Comber and Cradgington, having been foiled by the native chiefs in proceeding to Stanley Pool by way of Makuta, are endeavouring to make their way thither via Zombo, San Salvador remaining, meanwhile, the centre of their missionary operations.

— After a lecture on "Some Popular Fallacies," by the Rev. J. W. Atkinson, at St. George's Hall, Ramsgate, on the 24th ult., the sum of £25 was collected on behalf of the Renovation Fund of St. George's Church. Edmund F. Davis, Esq., the candidate for the representation of East Kent, occupied the chair.

— Mrs. Spurgeon's Book Fund Report for the past year shows that during that period 8,045 volumes have been given to poor ministers, besides 6,941 single sermons for distribution. The books were received by 235 Baptists, 180 Independents, 333 Methodists, 83 Church of England Clergymen, 49 Missionaries, 71 Evangelists, and 12 Presbyterians.

— The Rev. J. Pringle was last week publicly recognised as pastor of the church at Wickwar, as successor to the late Rev. B. Shipway. At a public meeting held on Wednesday, Mr. A. Robinson presided. The Rev. W. Davy (Wotton-under-Edge) delivered the charge to the pastor; and the Rev. F. W. B. Weeks (Fortishead) that to the church.

— Recognition services connected with the settlement of the Rev. George Dunnett as pastor of the church at Darkhouse, Coseley, were held last week. Mr. Stephen Thompson presided at a public meeting, at which addresses were delivered by the Revs. B. C. Young (who gave the charge to the pastor), G. McMichael, B.A. (who spoke to the church), J. C. Whitaker, C. Pates, and others.

— A new chapel is being erected at Cross Keys, Monmouthshire. It is intended to accommodate 800 people, and the total cost, including a vestry, will be about £1,500. For some years past preaching services have been conducted at Cross Keys in rooms hired for the purpose, and until now a difficulty has been experienced in procuring a site from Lord Tredegar. The churches at Risca are aiding the present movement.

— On Wednesday Feb. 25th a tea and public meeting were held at Wycliffe Union Tabernacle, Queen's Park, London. Sir Charles W. Dilke, M.P. for Chelsea, presided, and delivered a most interesting address. He stated that his ancestors, on both sides, belonged to the Puritans, and in the time of Queen Elizabeth, one of them, after suffering imprisonment in the Tower for conscience sake some fifteen years, succumbed to the cruel treatment.

— Mr. Manton Smith, who, with Mr. W. Y. Fullerton, has for three weeks past been addressing large audiences nightly in Zion Jubilee Chapel, on Sunday last spoke to 3,500 of the teachers and scholars from the Baptist Sunday-schools in Bradford, who, with fully 1,000 friends, congregated in St. George's Hall, and crowded the vast building in every part. An overflow service of teachers and scholars was held in Old Zion Chapel, close by, and was addressed by Mr. Fullerton and the Rev. C. A. Davis.

— The Church at the Metropolitan Tabernacle has just held its annual meeting, and the statistics show: 1 the increase by baptism during the year, as 395; by letter, 100; by profession, 37; by restoration, 3; total, 445; decrease from various causes (including 65 deaths and 68 exclusions), 322, leaving a net increase of 123, and the present numbers 5,290. In the Sunday-school there are 1,200 scholars and 103 teachers; 42 scholars have joined the Church during the year. A total of £131 has been raised for various purposes.

— At a special and largely attended meeting of the Central Committee of Pontypool College, held at Crane-street Chapel, on Wednesday last week, under the presidency of the Rev. W. M. Lewis, M.A., the question of the classical tutorship was referred to a special committee, and a resolution was adopted in favour of the erection of a new library with more ample accommodation. Formal thanks were passed to the President for his gift of books; and fourteen probationers were accepted as regular students.

— The annual social gathering of the Victoria-street church and congregation, Great Grimsby, took place on Thursday, when the schoolroom was crowded. After tea had been served, the Rev. E. Lauderdale took the presidency of the meeting, and addresses were delivered by Messrs. W. Henson, Jos. Dobson, K. V. Osmond, and others. The various reports were highly satisfactory. The membership had increased during the year a net gain of 51. The school was flourishing, with all other branches of Christian labour.

— On Monday, last week, Mr. Cruikshanks, President of the Baptist Union of Scotland, laid the foundation-stone of a new chapel to be erected in Newall, terrace, Dumfries, by the church under the pastorate of the Rev. G. W. Tooley. The building is to be of a neat design, and the bulk of its cost will be provided by friends in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The

outlay is estimated at nearly £2,000. After tea, a public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Hall, under the presidency of the pastor, addresses being given by the Revs. G. Tulloch, W. Purvis, senior Free Church minister in the town, and others.

— During the past month the following settlements and changes are recorded as affecting students of the Pastor's College:—Mr. A. Parker has accepted a call to Colne, Lancashire; Mr. W. Osborne has removed from Carlisle to Bristol; Mr. F. Aust from Coldstream, N.B. to Little London, Willenhall; Mr. H. Abraham to Lumb, Lancashire; Mr. E. P. Barrett from South Wingfield to Brixton; Mr. G. E. Ireland from Manchester to Eccles, and Mr. W. Seaman from Newquay to Hawick, N.B. Mr. J. J. Kendon has accepted the pastorate of Jericho and Mount Hermon Churches, Jamaica.

— The annual social meeting of the church and congregation at Stockwell, London, was held on Wednesday evening, February 25th, the pastor, [the Rev. Ebenezer Maclean, in the chair. There was a large gathering, and hearty and encouraging addresses were given by office-bearers of the church and other friends. Messrs. Stiff, Brasted, Hall, Bagster, Newsom, Headland, Guy, &c., took part. The additions to the membership throughout the year show a clear increase of from 50 to 60. The various organisations of the church were reported to be in a hopeful and flourishing condition.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday last a very successful Industrial Exhibition was held at Belle Isle Mission Chapel, the associated Schools of Brewery Road contributing 345 articles, consisting of models, illuminations, drawings, maps, specimens of sewing, fancy work executed by the scholars, besides specimens of their cookery. Other articles of interest were lent by friends; and in the evening, music, singing, dissolving views, and microscopes helped to entertain the audiences, which numbered about 500 upon each occasion. On Friday, 40 prizes and 70 certificates were distributed by Mrs. Jos. Benson (the pastor's wife) amongst the successful competitors.

— The first anniversary services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. R. J. Middleton, as pastor of the Church at Torrington, Devon, were held on Sunday last, February 29, when two sermons were preached, morning and evening, by the pastor. On the following Monday a tea was provided, to which a goodly number sat down. After the tea a public meeting was held, presided over by the Mayor, N. Chapple, Esq., and addresses were delivered by Revs. J. Shaw (Independent), C. Palmer (Church of England), J. C. Bassett (Bible Christian), and R. J. Middleton. They were the last services before the closing of the chapel for reseat, and the collections which were made, as well as the proceeds of the tea, will be given to the Renovation Fund. The services will be held in the Town Hall during the renovation of the chapel.

— A recognition service in connection with the settlement of the Rev. John S. Geale as pastor of Queen Square Church, Brighton, was held on Wednesday last, February 25th. The service was held in the Chapel, Dr. Friend, Esq., in the chair. The Revs. S. G. Rogers and A. Fergusson, tutors from the Pastor's College, and the Revs. W. Poole Balfour, E. Storrow, J. Glasikin, W. Fraser, A. F. Joscelyne, R. Hamilton, T. Rhys Evans, J. Bothers, W. J. Smith, and Messrs. Boxell and Olding (ministers belonging to the town) were present on the platform and took part in the proceedings. Letters were read from Rev. J. B. Figgis, M.A., Dr. A. Hamilton, C. D. Crouch, C. Lancaster, A. Spong, and A. Foyster expressing their best wishes for the success of Mr. Geale's ministry. Rev. G. Rogers gave a charge to the pastor, from Heb. xiii. 7, 8. The pastor having responded in a brief address, the Rev. A. Fergusson delivered a charge to the Church from Acts x. 33.

— The East London Baptist Ministers' Fraternal held its fifth annual meeting in the East London Tabernacle, on Monday evening, March 1st. Over 1,300 people were present. Rev. A. G. Brown presided, and was supported by Revs. J. Banfield, G. S. Cook, J. R. Cox, and others. After devotional exercises, in which several brethren took part, the chairman spoke a few words of welcome and encouragement. The secretary, Rev. W. J. Inglis, gave a statement, touching on the monthly meetings, the quarterly meetings of pastors and church officers, the annual excursion, and the Book Society, by which books are circulated among the brethren. The statistics of the churches constituting the Fraternal showed that in the fourteen churches reporting there was a net increase for the year of 289, and that the aggregate membership was 4,986. The Revs. J. Banfield, W. T. Lambourne, and J. Fletcher afterwards delivered stirring addresses. The offering, taken at the doors, on behalf of the Book Society amounted to £8.

— Special services have been held in connection with the eighth anniversary of the Rev. R. H. Gillespie's settlement at Barking-road Tabernacle, Plaistow. On Sunday, February 22nd, the Rev. Job Clark, of West Ham Tabernacle, preached in the morning. A service of song, entitled "Christiana," was given in the afternoon by the Tabernacle Singing Band, and in the evening the Rev. W. T. Lambourne, of Bromley, preached. On the following Tuesday a tea and public meeting were held. Richard Andrews, Esq., presided, and Mr. Jacobs (elder of the church) presented to the pastor a Bagster's "Teacher's Bible" and a purse, also a timepiece and a handsome pair of lusters to Mrs. Gillespie, whose persistent efforts as managing secretary of the Denarius Society during the year had considerably assisted the cause in its present financial difficulties. The Rev. D. Russell (of Edmonton), Frank Smith (of Hornsey), and H. E. Lester, Esq., formerly a deacon of the church, addressed the meeting. On Wednesday, the 25th, the Rev. W. Cuff lectured on "Slaves and Slaves of Great Cities," with dissolving views. The proceeds went to the Pastors' Fund.

— The hundred and seventy-third anniversary dinner of the Baptist Fund was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the Imperial Hotel, Holborn Viaduct. The chair was occupied by Dr. Landels, and afterwards by Dr. Angus. Speeches were delivered by the Revs. C. Stovel, W. T. Henderson, S. H. Booth, W. P. Cope, and others. The income for the year (£3,000) had been about equal to the expenditure; and the grants had been rather larger than in former years, on account of the applications having been fewer. The

object of the fund is to assist small churches in needy districts, and the grants are confined to Calvinistic ministers in England and Wales. Besides the regular income, there are special gifts to aged pastors, which have been bequeathed by benefactors in former years. £400 a year is also voted to Regent's Park College for educational purposes. In reference to this, Dr. Angus said the money was an essential part of his college's income, and without it they would be seriously crippled. They had 36 students, and the work done and character of their settlements showed the institution to be in good working order. He wished all the founders could be on the committee of the college; but as that could not be, he invited any of them to look in any day at dinner-time and see them. Mr. Henderson spoke of the entrance fee to the fund, now fixed at £50, as being a bar to many who would otherwise like to co-operate with them, and he wished the amount could be reduced; but whether this could legally be done is a question. A number of speeches were given by lay and clerical members, and the party broke up about seven o'clock.

PRESBYTERIAN.

— It now seems tolerably certain that the Muter bequest to the Sustentation Funds of the English Presbyterian Church and the Free Church of Scotland will be less than was at first expected. The total will amount to between £50,000 and £60,000, but the deduction for expenses threatens to be heavy.

— Efforts are still being made to form a congregation at Peckham.

— The centenary of the birth of Dr. Chalmers will be celebrated on the 17th inst.

— The question of the federation of the Australian Presbyterian Churches is being actively discussed.

— Dr. Somerville, who recently laboured in France, suggests that the General Assembly of the Free Church should send a letter to the French Churches "recognising their great services in olden days, and sympathising with them in their difficult position, but encouraging them to new evangelistic effort."

— The importance to the 190,000 children, says the Free Church Record, as well as to the Church, of bringing our Sabbath schools into a more living and organised connection with Foreign Missions, has led the committee to address a letter to each of the 1,936 superintendents of congregational and missionary schools.

— The death is announced of the Rev. Charles R. White, minister of St. Clement's Established Church, Dundee, aged thirty-five.

— At the annual meeting of St. George's congregation, Liverpool, on Thursday, it was shown by the various reports that the Church is in a flourishing condition. The meeting was held in the Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown's lecture-room, the Rev. Robert Duff the pastor, presiding.

— About two years ago, writes Mrs. Murray Mitchell, during a visit up Deeside, Dr. Murray Mitchell gave an address on missions in India in the Free Church at Banchory. Miss Warrack, a niece of the pastor, was also an inmate of the manse. She heard the address which she followed up afterwards by much intelligent questioning. The picture given of the condition of the women, especially of the poor degraded widow and of those who are so cruelly secluded or rather imprisoned within their own zenanas, made a deep impression on her mind. With a brave heart and quiet but firm resolve, Miss Warrack offered herself to the Free Church Ladies' Society as a senana teacher, entered the Normal School, and worked hard to fit herself for the life she was about to enter upon. A few days since Miss Warrack sailed for Calcutta.

— The annual collection for church extension will be taken throughout the English congregations on the 31st inst. The convener, Mr. G. B. Bruce, points out that last year's collection, amounting to only £1,707, did not average more than one penny per month per Church member.

— The Free Church Sustentation Fund receipts for the nine months amount to £114,097, a decrease of £1,355.

— At the next meeting of the London Presbytery, the Rev. William Graham, D.D., Moderator of the English Synod, will be nominated for the Barbour chair. The Presbyteries of Berwick, Carlisle, Liverpool, and Northumberland, have agreed to send up to the Synod the name of Dr. Graham for their chair. The Presbytery of Newcastle have nominated the Rev. J. Thompson, and the Presbytery of Berwick, the Rev. Gavin Carlyle.

— Professor Legge's lectures in the Presbyterian College, London, on "The Religions of China," have proved a great success. The first and second lectures dealt with Confucius and Confucianism. The third, which was given on Tuesday to a large audience, was devoted to Taoism. Mr. Hugh M. Matheson presided. Dr. Legge showed that Taoism, unlike Confucianism, is not an ancient religion. It was born by Buddhism out of the old Chinese superstitions. It followed Buddhism, but its voice and spirit came from its mother superstition, and it is fantastic, base, and cruel. It has proved too strong for Confucianism, which the Government holds to be orthodox; hence Taoism, like Buddhism, has had to be recognised and endowed. Taoism is both a religion and a philosophy, and its followers believe in a heaven and a hell; the idea respecting the latter, the lecturer thought, might have been gleaned from some imperfect translation of our own Bible. After passing through purgatory, spirits are born again on earth, and have a second and third trial. If a woman transgresses, her punishment consists in being born again, but as a man. The third lecture, comparing these two systems of religion with Christianity falls to be given on Friday evening.

— The New Barnet congregation have been holding their annual meeting—Rev. W. Dale, the pastor, presiding. The chairman's programme was very early interrupted by the Rev. Mr. Amos, who, in the name of the congregation, presented Mr. Dale with a handsome timepiece and ornaments as an affectionate offering towards his establishment of a home. The treasurer then read a report, showing that this small congregation had during the past year raised the sum of £507, of which £150 had been devoted to the "repairs" fund. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Rev. J. Cunningham, of Wandsworth, the Rev. Dr. MacEwan, of Clapham, and by the ministers of other denominations in the neighbourhood, who one and all testified to their gratification at the spiri-

tual and material progress of which they had heard, and their good wishes towards the pastor and his flock. Dr. MacEwan's address specially, now teeming with kindly advice and sympathy, and again convulsing the audience with humorous anecdote, will live long in the remembrance of the congregation.

— It is said that the Canonbury congregation, following the example set of late by nearly all the vacant congregations throughout England—will call a minister from Ireland.

— A deeply interesting service took place on Sunday morning at the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London. The whole of the Scotch soldiers stationed at the various London barracks were paraded and assembled to celebrate the Lord's Supper, according to the form of the Church of Scotland, that being the first occasion on which such a gathering has been attempted on so large a scale. The Scotch pensioners of Chelsea Hospital also attended. Several influential friends of the Established Church of Scotland, including Mr. Archibald Orr Ewing, M.P., Major Thornton, and Mr. Badenoch Nicolson, joined in the communion. The elders who officiated were Dr. Badenoch, Mr. James Cowan, M.P., Mr. Maciver Anderson, the Rev. Mr. Cannon, the Rev. J. M. Crombie, and Dr. Mackie.

— The memorial-stone of a new church for the Reading congregation was laid on Tuesday.

— Rev. L. D. Bevan, of the Brick Church, New York, and formerly of London, has had the degree of D.D. conferred upon him by the trustees of Princeton College.

— The newly-formed congregation at Kingston-on-Thames have been holding their annual meeting, the Rev. Thomas Anderson, the pastor, in the chair. The reports showed that considerable progress had been made during the year. Amongst other things of a hopeful nature, it was stated that during the present pastorate, which commenced in June last, 30 members had been added to the communion roll; that a young men's society had been formed; and that the young congregation was now self-sustaining. The meeting was addressed by Dr. MacEwan, and during the evening the chairman presented Miss de Boinville with a hymn-book and a purse of sovereigns, in recognition of her valuable services as leader of praise.

— The St. John's-wood congregation, although the vacancy has extended to twelve months, keeps well together. Rev. H. T. Howat, of Queen's-road Church, Liverpool, preached last Sunday morning and evening to large congregations.

— Before leaving Norwich the Rev. J. Pirrie was presented with a testimonial at a largely-attended meeting of the congregation.

— The Presbyterians of Texas have recently added to their list of ministers the first coloured man of that denomination who was ever ordained in the state.

— Rev. W. Stoddart, parish minister of Madderty, has just completed his fifty years' ministry.

— The foundation-stone of a new church for the Morningside United Presbyterian congregation was laid in Edinburgh on Saturday by the Rev. Professor Calderwood. The building will cost £10,000.

— Rev. James Park, of Aberdeen, has received a call from St. John's Church, Leith; Rev. Henry Dodd has accepted a call from St. Stephen's Gaelic Church, Perth; Rev. William Watson has been ordained pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, West Bridgend, Dumbarrow; Rev. Mr. Muir has been inducted minister of Morningside Church, Edinburgh, as successor to Professor Taylor, resigned.

— The Dalkeith Free Presbytery recently held a conference on Temperance, and agreed that, while approving of teetotalism as a personal matter, they certainly did not approve of it coming up as a Church question.

— The Manchester Presbytery met on Monday—Rev. Dr. Grosart, Moderator. After a discussion on the finances of the mission station at Tunley, the Rev. W. Young gave notice of a motion requesting reports of preaching stations to be furnished monthly. On the motion of Mr. J. A. Beith, seconded by Mr. James Robb, the Presbytery agreed to memorialise the Home Secretary in favour of legislation to stop children of tender years vending newspapers, &c., in the streets at unreasonable hours of the night. Rev. W. McCaw announced that the Grosvenor-square congregation had decided to call the Rev. Hugh Rose, of Stockton, the minimum stipend offered being £300. Moderation was fixed for the 18th inst. A report of the committee on evangelistic work, lapsed Presbyterians, and interperance was read and briefly discussed.

WESLEYAN.

— At Warwick-gardens, London, the teachers and scholars of the Sunday-school have presented Mr. A. Williams, the superintendent, with the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's "Treasury of David" (five vols.).

— At French's Fields School Chapel, a service of song, entitled "The Mayflower," was recently given by the choir from the Lower-road Chapel, Deptford, in aid of the fund for carrying on the Sunday evening services recently commenced. Mr. J. Mayer, of Blackheath, gave the readings.

— The Rev. H. H. Vowles lectured on the 24th ult. at Albion street Chapel, Lower-road, Deptford, his subject being "Oliver Cromwell."

— At Norwich, in connection with the Wesleyan Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, a lecture was given on the 25th ult. by the Rev. H. Scanes, vice-president, the subject being "Shakespeare and the Scriptures."

— A social gathering was held at Eastbourne on the 25th ult. Mr. J. Mare presided at the evening meeting, and the Revs. A. Babington (Baptist), W. D. Williams, and others, gave addresses.

— The Circuit Thanksgiving Fund meeting at Bury St. Edmund's was held on the 23rd ult. The Rev. J. Brewster, of Ipswich, preached a sermon in the afternoon; the Rev. G. Follows, chairman of the district, presided at the evening meeting; and the Rev. J. Iredale, Mr. J. R. Cossens, Rev. J. W. Whitmore, Mr. G. Gibbs, and others, took part in the proceedings. The contributions amounted to £90.

— At Methwold the Circuit meeting in aid of the Thanksgiving Fund was held on the 26th ult. A preparatory sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Brewster, of Ipswich, who, with the Rev. G. Follows and others, addressed the meeting, which was held after tea. The contributions amounted to £31.

— At Oxford-road, Reading, an iron chapel, with school-buildings and class-rooms, has been erected on

a freehold site. The schoolroom is so constructed as to be open to the chapel when necessary, and accommodation can thus be secured for about 500 persons. The opening services have been conducted by the Rev. F. Greaves, Ishmael Jones, and John Baker, and public meeting held on the 23rd ult. was addressed by the Rev. C. H. Floyd, the Revs. S. Mann (Baptist), J. T. C. Gullan (Presbyterian), and J. Braah, Mr. Whiting, and others. The entire cost of the premises, including a dwelling-house, was £2,300.

— At Wath-upon-Dearne lectures have been given during the winter by the circuit ministers, the Rev. W. Parsonson, of Barnsley, Dr. Barman, and the Rev. J. S. Harris. Collections have been taken on several occasions for circuit purposes.

— At Friskney (Wainfleet) circuit, the chapel anniversary services have been preached by Mr. Isaac Marden, of Doncaster, who has on former occasions visited the place and conducted successful services.

— A successful anniversary service has been held in connection with the mission at West March, near Grimsby. The public meeting was held in the Scandinavian Church, Mr. Wm. Cook presiding. The Revs. E. Workman and W. H. Groves, M.A., Mr. Councillor Jackson, and Mr. Stephenson, borough treasurer, took part in the proceedings.

— The central meeting for the Manchester Welsh Circuit, in aid of the Thanksgiving Fund, has been held. Mr. W. J. Lewis presided, and the Rev. Dr. Pope and the Rev. Samuel Davies were the deputation. The sum of £123 was promised at the meeting, and a subsequent gathering at Teignmouth-street Chapel has brought the total up to nearly £138.

— A successful meeting in aid of the home missions was recently held at Frolham. The Rev. M. Riggall, of Warrington, the Rev. J. Kent, of Tamworth, the Rev. F. Haines, and others took part in the proceedings.

— At Waltham-street, Hull, a lecture was recently delivered by the Rev. C. Dawe, of Birmingham, in connection with the Young Men's Association. The subject was "The Philosophy of the Ludicrous."

— At Northallerton and Brompton sermons have been preached by the Rev. S. Crump and the Rev. Joshua Johnson, in connection with the Thanksgiving Fund. On the 28th ult. a meeting was held at Northallerton, Mr. W. Leak, of York (district treasurer), presiding. The Revs. J. Rhodes, Jos. Olphert, and Joshua Johnson, Mr. W. W. Murrell, of York, and Mr. R. M. Middleton, were among the speakers, and the subscriptions amounted to £105.

— At Whitwick, the Rev. John Bate recently lectured to a large audience in aid of the Chapel Building Fund.

— Wesley Circuit, Cardiff, renders capital service in the missionary work. The entire sum raised during the past year was over £337 (an increase of more than £30). The sum realised by the Christmas offerings (including sums raised by certain adult Sunday schools, which are a peculiar feature of Welsh Methodism), was £226.

— Thanksgiving fund services have been held at Theford. The Rev. J. Brewster preached a sermon in the afternoon, and at the evening meeting the Rev. G. Follows presided. The contributions reached a total of £142 10s. 8d.

— At Fenge an effort is being made to liquidate the debt on the new chapel. The anniversary services have just been conducted by the Rev. F. J. Sharr and J. Banham, and the Rev. Dr. Punshan has given his popular lecture on "Wilberforce" to a large audience, and with great advantage to the funds.

— Mr. George Bagnall, who has acted as circuit steward at Carmarthen for thirty-eight years, recently retired from that office, and received very hearty thanks for his services.

— The annual sermons on behalf of the Wesleyan Home Missions were preached on Sunday at Museum-street Chapel, Ipswich, by the Rev. J. Brewster, the circuit superintendent, who earnestly commended the missions to the congregation. On the following evening a public meeting was held, which was addressed by the Rev. E. Martin, late of Ceylon, Rev. J. Brewster, and other friends.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.

— The Foreign Missionary Committee met in Oxford-street Chapel, Manchester, on Wednesday and Thursday last. All the members were present but one. Special arrangements were made to release the secretary from any public engagements during the present month, in consequence of his impaired health. The committee were glad to learn that the Rev. T. A. Bayley, of Australia, had consented, in compliance with their request, to continue a while longer in active service. Letters from China intimated that premises had been completed and paid for both in Ningpo and Wanchow. Mr. Sedon informed the committee that he will not be able to return to East Africa, but will take a home circuit when sufficiently recovered. It was reported that Mr. and Mrs. During had arrived at Zanzibar en route for the Bile station on January 9th. The appointment of a superintendent to the Sierra Leone Mission and several other matters were deferred until the next session of the committee, which will be held at Louth in June next.

— The Rev. Charles Bentley, of Macclesfield, has preached two sermons, and, with others, has addressed a public meeting at Marple Ridge, on behalf of the Connexional missions. The proceeds were in advance of those of the previous year.

— On Thursday, in connection with the Middleton Sunday-school Union, the Rev. W. O. Lilley, of Heywood, delivered a lecture on "Robert Raikes, Journalist, Prison-Reformer, and Founder of Sunday-schools."

— The Rev. H. Umpleby, of Leamham Harbour, has accepted a unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the church at Leamington during the next Connexional year.

— The Rev. Samuel Chester, of Rochdale, Baillieston Circuit, has lectured on "The Good Old Times," on behalf of the minister's house fund.

— The death is reported of Mr. Edward Kipling J.P., of Darlington, a well-known and highly-respected member of the Free Churches. The deceased was one of those who succeeded from the Conference body in 1835, and in various offices efficiently served the cause of Free Methodism, until physical infirmities laid him aside. He was a Liberal in politics, and had learnt "to do justice and love mercy."

— The Rev. W. Barnes, of Leeds West, will remove to Swanscombe in August next, as successor to the

Rev. William Toppin, who will then have completed the third year of his ministry in that town.

— On the 23rd ult., a lecture was given at Openshaw, Manchester Third Circuit, by Mr. James Saxon, in aid of the coming bazaar, on "The Steam Engine," with working models showing the various stages of its development. Mr. J. H. Crossfield presided.

— The friends belonging to Hebron Chapel, Bedminster, Bristol, have held a bazaar in the Temperance Hall, for liquidating the circuit debt. Proceeds, £294.

— Rev. John Billington, of Prescott, has accepted an invitation to become the successor of the Rev. C. R. Ramshaw, who leaves the Runcorn Circuit in August.

— Sermons in aid of the mission fund have been preached in Hanover Chapel, Sheffield, by the Rev. T. Wakefield, of East Africa, and the Rev. Robert Bushell, general missionary secretary. On the following evening a public meeting was held, presided over by Mr. S. H. Barrow, and addressed by the above and other ministers. The collections amounted to £48.

— A sale of useful and ornamental articles in aid of the funds of Hyde-road Church, Manchester, has been held in the school, and realised £180.

— The Rev. C. Wesley Hopper will remove from the St. George's Circuit in August.

— Mr. H. Collier, of Newport, Mon., has been elected a member of the School Board.

— The chapel at Star Hill, Rochester Circuit, is closed for reworking and renovation. Additional classrooms are also about to be built.

— The chapel at Shrewsbury is now undergoing extensive alterations and improvements, the entire cost of which will be provided without adding to the trust responsibilities.

— The Rev. J. E. Swallow, of Croydon, has accepted an invitation, for the next Connexional year, to the South Acton Church, in the Sixth London Circuit, as successor to the Rev. David Irving, who will then remove to the Second London Circuit.

— At the recent annual sale of work of the Workshop Church, £33 was raised, which, together with the bazaar last autumn, will reduce the chapel debt to £500, leaving the trustees in easy circumstances. At the special religious services recently held much good has been done, several being added to the Church.

— Missionary sermons were preached by the Rev. W. Murray in the Pontypool Church, and on the following day a public meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. W. Davies.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION.

— At the annual meeting of the Darlington congregation, the Rev. J. A. Foster received a unanimous invitation to remain a second year. It was also stated the Sunday-school has been very much improved since Mr. Foster came, besides an increase in church membership.

— At Booten, in the Hanley circuit, the managers and teachers held a meeting on Monday last. Mr. Jones, of Colridge, presiding. After giving an address Mr. Jones distributed the prizes to the scholars for early attendance and good conduct. Other addresses were given, and a pleasant evening was spent.

— It is proposed to build a new school at Midgley, in Barnsley Circuit, near to the present site of the chapel. W. B. Beaumont, Esq., of Bretton Hall, has generously offered to give a suitable plot of land, on condition that the school and chapel together be formed on one trust, and that the land shall never be used for any other purpose than that for which it is given. Steps are being taken to give security for the fulfilment of these conditions.

— We understand that the present editor of the connexional magazines, and the book steward, the Rev. J. Hudson, of Liverpool, has intimated his intention of resigning his office at the next Conference. Mr. Hudson has held the editorship for nearly seven years. Undoubtedly the severe depression in trade has rendered it a great difficulty to keep up the circulation of the magazines. The new and more attractive form in which the *Juvenile Instructor* and *Companion*, which is the children's magazine, has appeared since January, has already drawn to it a larger circulation. Should Mr. Hudson's resignation be accepted, we shall not be surprised if the Conference should appoint in his place a superintendent of a Midland circuit, who now occupies an honoured office in the denomination. At all events, he has been freely mentioned as a likely one to succeed in the editorship.

— An interesting meeting was held in Booten Chapel, Hanley Circuit, last Monday week, for a presentation to Mr. Arthur Steele for his services as harmonist. The presentation consisted of an elegant volume of "Dr. Livingstone's Life and Travel in Africa," and a silver pencilcase.

A RECOGNITION SERVICE AT DOVER.

THE REV. ROBERT DAVEY was welcomed to his new sphere of labour last Thursday evening, with more than the usual degree of heartiness manifested on such occasions. The ladies of Zion Chapel church and congregation occupied themselves for some days previously in decorating, with much taste, as well as profusion, both the school-room and chapel in which the meetings were to be held, and thus added considerably to the festive character of the event. So large was the company at the tea that many had to wait their turn for seats, and the subsequent gathering in the chapel was all that could have been desired, whether for numbers or for the lively interest shown in the proceedings of the evening. The Rev. A. TURNER, of Ashford—representing the Congregational Union of Kent—occupied the chair, and contributed largely by his wise words and kindly spirit, to the admirable tone of the meeting. Mr. T. PAIN, senior deacon, stated the circumstances which led to the unanimous call given by the church to Mr. DAVEY to become their pastor, and mentioned that since his settlement his sermons had been even more appreciated than they were at first. In fact, the more they knew of him the better they liked him. Mr. DAVEY next told his own side of the pleasing story, and recognised the leadings of Providence in being directed thither, where he hoped to spend many happy and useful years. Mr. JAMES CLARKE, of the Christian World, was next introduced to the meeting, by the

chairman, as an old and valued friend of Mr. DAVEY, and a resident at Caterham, the scene of their new pastor's ministry before that serious loss of health which led to his resignation. Mr. CLARKE, who was very cordially received, testified to his almost life-long acquaintance with Mr. DAVEY, and to the high regard in which he held his friend, both as a cultured Christian gentleman and a Christian minister. Although not an officer of the church at Caterham, he had been authorised by the deacons to express their affectionate sympathy with Mr. DAVEY, and to wish for him a long career of happy and useful labour in his new sphere. The Rev. PETER WARD, in the name of the ministers of the town and neighbourhood, gave to Mr. DAVEY a cordial welcome and the right hand of fellowship, and expressed the pleasure he felt in seeing Zion Chapel so well and speedily suited with a minister. The meeting was continued for another hour or more by lively and impressive speeches by two former pastors of Zion—Revs. S. ST. N. DORRIS, of Sheerness, and J. E. GIBBERD, of Sittingbourne; also by Revs. J. JAMES, successor of Mr. BUTCHER, to Margate; E. J. EDWARDS, Baptist, of Dover; A. J. PALMER, of Folkestone; W. HILL, of Faversham, Chairman for the year of the Kent Congregational Union; A. F. BENNETT, of Broadstairs; J. S. BROOKS, of Deal; E. GOODISON, of Canterbury; and Mr. W. GRIFFITHS, one of the deacons. The Rev. J. PARKES, Wesleyan minister of Dover, was present part of the evening, but had to leave for other duties. Besides appropriate hymns, there were sung during the evening several anthems by a thoroughly accomplished choir, under the direction of Mr. E. W. SPAIN. The *Dover Express*, which devotes considerable space to a report of the proceedings, remarks that "the service throughout was of the most pleasing character, and the recognition of the new minister may be said to have taken place under the most happy auspices."—It ought to be further stated that at the close of the meeting a choice and sumptuous supper was given to some thirty of the ministers and gentlemen, and a number of ladies, at the Shakespeare Hotel, by THOMAS VINET BROWN, Esq., Deputy Mayor of Dover, under whose presidency, as host, two hours were most agreeably spent, the company separating, with hearty thanks to Mr. BROWN for his generous hospitality.

BIRTHS.

ALEXANDER.—Feb. 23, at Bilton Dene, near Harrogate, the wife of the Rev. David M. Alexander, of a daughter.
DAVIES.—Feb. 20, the wife of Rev. Owen Davies, Congregational minister of Tykissley, near Manchester of a daughter.
DAY.—Feb. 23, at 13, Kildare-gardens, Baywater, the wife of the Rev. Benjamin William Day, of a son.
FEATHERSTONHAUGH.—Feb. 27, at Baker House, Monkwearmouth, the wife of Edw. Featherstonhaugh, of a son.
FOTHERGILL.—Feb. 21, at 40, Warrior-square, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, the wife of Henry Fothergill, of a son.
GATHORNE.—Feb. 25, at Wenham Vicarage, Suffolk, the wife of the Rev. Richard Gathorne, of a son.
HAWKINS.—Jan. 16, at Amoy, China, the wife of the Rev. W. W. Hawkins, late British Chaplain, Foochow—twins (girl and boy).
HOCKER.—Feb. 25, at Arthur-road, Holloway, the wife of John G. Hocker, of a daughter.
THOMPSON.—Feb. 25, at Offton Vicarage, Suffolk, the wife of the Rev. John E. Thompson, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CASTRO-STEVENS.—Jan. 27, at the Cinnamon-gardens Church, Colombo, Ceylon, by the father of the bride Raymond, fourth son of Rev. W. A. Castro, M.A., Fellow of Eton College, to Maud Mary, elder daughter of Rev. T. H. Stevens.
COOMBS-HIGGINS.—March 1, at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Rev. A. H. Higgins, Vicar of Trinity, Darlington, uncle of the bride, Rowland Hill, eldest son of James Coombs, of Bedford, to Caroline Wright, third daughter of the late Charles Higgins, of Liverpool.
EVANS-JONES.—Jan. 14, at Maitland-park Congregational Chapel, by the Rev. John Nunn, the Rev. J. Gwynne Evans, of Drevon, Newcastle Emlyn, to Miss Jones, eldest daughter of Mr. Jones, Draper, 161, Queen's-crescent, Haverstock-hill, London.
MACFARLANE-SILVER.—Feb. 25, at the Presbyterian Church, Upper George-street, Bryanston-square, by the Rev. Dr. Fraser, Donald MacFarlane, Esq., late of the Madras Medical Establishment, to Frances Aytoun, widow of James Silver, Esq., formerly of Netherley, Kinross-shire, N.B., and of the Madras Civil Service.
PERROT-DAVEY.—Feb. 20, at the Catholic and Apostolic Church, Camberwell New-road, Charles Ferdinand de St. Clair, son of Monsieur A. Perrot, of Clapham, to Mary Ann, daughter of H. DAVEY, Esq., of Florence Lodge, Flaxman-road, Camberwell.
ROSENBERGER-TURLE.—Feb. 23, at St. Jude's Church, Midway-park, by the Rev. D. B. Hankin, M.A., Vicar, Morris Rosenberg, third son of J. Rosenberg, of Frankfurt-on-the-Maine, to Laura Mary, daughter of Correll Turle, Civil Service.
THOMSON-FLETCHER.—Feb. 25, at the Congregational Church, Marmaduke-street, Edge-hill, Liverpool, by the Rev. W. Garrett Horder, of Wood-green, London, uncle of the bride, Malcolm M. Thomson, of Tue Brook, to Edith Morley, eldest daughter of A. E. Fletcher, Esq., F.C.S., Edge-lane, Liverpool.

DEATHS.

ANDERSON.—Feb. 26, after 30 years of intense suffering, borne with great fortitude and resignation, Jane Wheatley, widow of the late William Hedley Anderson, Esq., of Marston Lodge, Cheltenham, and late of Ashfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
ANTLEFF.—Feb. 19, at Toronto, Canada, Fanny, the beloved wife of the Rev. J. C. Antleff, M.A., B.D., Primitive Methodist Minister.
CAYE.—At Tunnel-hill, Ellsworth, Northamptonshire, after a few days' illness, Mr. J. T. Caye, aged 50 years.
EVANS.—Feb. 20, at 23, Wilberforce-terrace, Hulme, Manchester, John Nathaniel, youngest child of W. H. and A. Evans, aged four years and nine days, from croup.
GEARY.—Feb. 20, at High-street, Uxbridge, Harriet Geary, aged 76, third daughter of the late Henry Geary, Mealman, Uxbridge.
GOSBELL.—Feb. 27, at his residence, 50, Tollington-road, Holloway, Henry Gosbell, in the 51st year of his age. Friends will kindly accept this intimation. Australian and Canadian papers please copy.
HASTINGS.—Feb. 25, at the Clergy Orphan School, Canterbury, Charles Edward, youngest son of the late Rev. Warren B. Hastings, of Ludford Rectory, Lincolnshire, aged nine.
KNIGHT.—Jan. 26, at Burghersdorp, South Africa, Charles Howard Knight, youngest son of the late Mr. Thomas Knight, of Bristol, England.
LEES.—Feb. 25, after a few days' illness, Charles Lees, of Hadley House, Hazellville-road, Hornsey-lane, aged 45. "So He giveth His beloved sleep."
MEW.—Feb. 5, at Woolton-common, Isle of Wight, Edith Sophia, daughter of J. A. Mew, aged 19; and on the 22nd, Marian, wife of J. A. Mew, aged 42.
MICHELL.—Feb. 25, Mrs. Janet Michell, of 85, Great Dover-street, Borough, the day after her 82nd birthday.
MORGAN.—Feb. 10, at Olney, Bucks, C. Morgan, aged 58.
PAGE.—Feb. 26, at The Hill, Caversham, Read 58, Matilda Page, in her 85th year.
STEVENS.—Feb. 23, at his residence, 23, Mon peller-road, Brighton, William Stevens, Esq., formerly of Grove-lane, Camberwell, in the 90th year of his age.

WILLIS.—Feb. 26, at his residence, 18, Ladbroke-square, Frederick Willis, of Willis's Rooms, and the Manor House, Weston Underwood, in his 71st year.
WOODWARD.—Feb. 25, at her residence, at Sproughton, Suffolk, aged 80 years, Miss Mary Woodward.

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The only Cod Liver Oil which produces the full curative effects in
CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, THROAT AFFECTIONS, GENERAL DEBILITY, WASTING DISEASES OF CHILDREN, RICKETS, AND ALL SCROFULOUS DISORDERS.

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CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS.—President, Rev. Josiah Viney; Treasurer, Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P.; Principal, Rev. T. Rudd, B.A. The Committee of the above School, having decided to receive a limited number of LAY PUPILS, are now open to receive applications. The Education consists of the usual branches of English, Latin, French, German, and Mathematics. An Annual Examination is held by a University Examiner, and Prizes awarded. Special attention is paid to the moral character of the boys. The Annual Course consists of Three Terms from January to Easter; Easter to Midsummer; and Midsummer to Christmas, with the usual holidays between. Applications for admission, or further particulars, to be made to Rev. S. Fisher, Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, London, E.C.

TETTERHALL COLLEGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

HEAD MASTER:
ALEXANDER WAUGH YOUNG, Esq., M.A. (London), Gold Medalist in Classics; late Andrew's Scholar and First Prize-man in Higher Senior Mathematics of University College, London; Fellow of University College, London.

SECOND MASTER:
JAMES SHAW, Esq., B.A. (London), First in the First Class at both First and Second B.A. Examinations.

ASSISTED BY NINE OTHER MASTERS.
There are five Scholarships connected with the College.

Senior Tetterhall Scholarship	£ 31 10 0
Junior Tetterhall Scholarship	26 5 0
Directors' Scholarship	26 5 0
The Shaw Scholarship	30 0 0
The Mander Scholarship	30 0 0

There is a large swimming bath on the College premises, for use throughout the year, being warmed in cold weather. There is a well-equipped gymnasium, and there are three good fields for cricket and football.

Boys are prepared for the Universities, the Professions, and for Commerce.

For particulars as to Scholarships, &c., apply to the Head Master at the College; or to the Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. Philip F. Rowe, M.A., Tetterhall, near Wolverhampton.

FIRST TERM 1880, from JAN. 18th to APRIL 15th.

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM, LONDON, S.E.

PRINCIPALS—
Mrs. TODD and Rev. J. W. TODD, D.D.

PROFESSORS.	
English Literature	Prof. MOSELEY, Univ. Col.
Botany	Prof. BENTLEY, King's Col.
French Language	Dr. MANDOU
German Language	Dr. WENZ, Dulwich Col.
Italian Language	Prof. FERRARO, L.L.D.
Ancient & Modern History	Dr. KENNEDY, Dul. Col.
English Language	G. E. WEST, Esq., M.A.
Physical Geography	Prof. SEELY, King's Col.
Music—Theory, &c.	JOHN BLOCKLEY, Esq.
Piano and Harmonium	Herr LOUIS DIKEL
Singing	SIGNOR GARCIA
Drawing and Painting	E. C. MILES, Esq.
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The Principal of a high class Kinder-Garten receives YOUNG LADIES to TRAIN in FROBEL'S SYSTEM. A happy Christian home in a pleasant and healthy part of Bath. Terms advantageous.—The Misses Buckpitt, 2, Daniel-street, Bath.

CLARENCE HOUSE, RICHMOND, SURREY.—This old-established and well-known SCHOOL, formerly conducted by Miss Blyth, is now carried on by Miss Hunt. Masters of the highest repute. Terms from sixty-five guineas. References to ministers and parents of pupils.

THE NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, NEAR WAKEFIELD.

Established 1831 for the sons of Ministers & Missionaries; the sons of Laymen have been admitted since 1856.

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Rev. JAMES RAE, B.A., Batley, Hon. Finance Sec.

"The School itself is an excellently-contrived building where nothing has been spared to provide fine, lofty and well-furnished classrooms. I examined the dormitories, lavatories, &c., and found them superior to most that I have inspected. The situation cannot well be surpassed for healthiness."

Extract from the Cambridge Examiner's Report, Midsummer, 1874.

Chemical Laboratory and detached Infirmary.

Several boys have recently matriculated at the University of London in the First Division.

FIFTEEN BOYS passed the last CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATION, four in First Class Honours one in the Second Class, and two in the Third, with six distinctions.

Applications to be sent to the Head Master. Ministers' sons are received on reduced terms.

THE LADIES' HIGH-CLASS SCHOOL, MOIRA HOUSE, UPPER ADDISCOMBE, CROYDON.

PRINCIPALS—Mr. and Mrs. INGHAM and the Misses CONNAH.

Ten miles from London, and three from the Crystal Palace.

Public Examinations are not prepared for. The system upon which the school is worked is entirely new, and each succeeding year testifies to its success.

In addition to the usual branches of English, which are taught in a manner both efficient and interesting, Drawing, Music, and the Continental Languages receive considerable attention, and with valuable results.

Each class has a separate room and teacher.

A gymnasium has been added, and outdoor exercise is much encouraged.

Prospectuses, with names of Referees and full particulars, may be obtained from the Principals.

University School, Hastings.

MR. JOHN STEWART has the pleasure of informing his friends that he has secured the help of the Rev. B. WILLIAMS, late of Chichester.

The New Lower School, under the care of Mrs. Butler (wife of Mr. Edward A. Butler, B.A., B.Sc.), will be opened at Christmas.

The following successes at public examinations have been achieved by boys from this school during the last nine months:—

London University, First B.A.	1
" Matriculation in Honours	3
" 1st Division	3
Cambridge Local Examination, Seniors	8
" Juniors	14
College of Preceptors, First Class	6
" Second	23
" Third	23

* With the 1st Prize for Mathematics, August, 1879.

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Conducted by Professor W. B. TODD HUNTER, M.A. (Gold Medalist) University of London, and Fellow of University College, London. Formerly of Cheshunt College.

In addition to the usual Classical, Mathematical, and English subjects and French, which is studied daily, instruction in Science forms a part of the regular work of the upper classes. The French, German, drawing, and painting are taught by Dr. Adelstein, Professor of Modern Languages, Drawing, and Painting at the Royal Polytechnic, London. Inclusive terms from £45 per annum. For particulars apply as above.

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Conducted by Mrs. MARTIN and her Daughter. Assisted by Masters, and Qualified English and Foreign Governesses.

Pupils prepared annually for the Cambridge Local and other Examinations.

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Pupils are received to study accomplishments and household management. Cooking is taught by a lady diploma from South Kensington.

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A SCHOOL for LADIES, conducted by Mrs. WILLIAMS (wife of the Rev. B. E. Williams). Prospectus on application.

WILTON HOUSE, EDGBASTON, Near Birmingham.**THE SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES**

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References kindly permitted to the Rev. R. W. DALE, Birmingham.

WESTWOOD PARK HOUSE, FOREST-HILL, S.E.**THE REV. H. J. CHANCELLOR**

receives a limited number of pupils to board and educate. The course of instruction includes the subjects required for the University Local Examinations. The year is divided into three terms. The principal is assisted by resident and visiting masters. The house is healthily situated on the highest part of Forest-hill, and is complete in all its sanitary arrangements. Attention is given by the principal to the religious and moral training of the pupils, as well as to their domestic comfort. Particulars as to fees and references on application.

OXFORD COUNTY MIDDLE-CLASS SCHOOL (HOWARD HOUSE SCHOOL, THAME).

The success of this School for thirty-eight years arises from the fact that great attention is paid to subjects required in commercial life. Boys have excelled in good writing, arithmetic, French, book-keeping, and mercantile correspondence. Pupils from this School have passed the Examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society and the College Preceptors, and the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations in Honours. Cricket, fishing, safe bathing, &c. References to parents in all parts of England. Inclusive terms twenty-two or twenty-four guineas. For views and prospectus apply to the Principals, Messrs. J. and J. W. Marsh.

HAMSTEAD-ROAD HOUSE, HANDSWORTH, NEAR BIRMINGHAM.**SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES.**

Mrs. Pinckney (daughter of the late Professor Barker, of Spring-hill College, Moseley, Birmingham), informs her friends that she is changing her residence, and is prepared to receive as Boarders six young Ladies to educate with those already under her care. Terms on application.

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2,175 policies issued for	£456,450
New annual premium income	13,069

BUSINESS IN FORCE.	
24,283 policies in force for	£4,437,034
Annual premium income	133,446

DEATH CLAIMS, &c.	
Death claims, including matured policies and bonuses paid in year	£53,759
From commencement paid for claims	483,534

ACCUMULATED FUND.	
Added in the year	£60,689
Increasing the fund to	624,446

Average Reversionary Bonus for 24 years, ONE-AND-A-QUARTER per Cent. per Annum.

Policies payable in lifetime. Separate use Policies.

Non-forfeiture Policies by Limited Payments.

Assurances effected in the Mutual Department during 1879 participate in Ninth Division of Profits, and rank for Two Years' Bonus therein.

The Royal Exchange Shipping Company, Limited.

Issue at Par of £100,000 Five per Cent. Debentures.

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John Brown, Esq. (J. & R. B. Brown), 60, Fenchurch-street, London.

David Ward, Esq. (Ward and Payne), Sheffield.

Samuel Cocker, Esq., Norfolk Lodge, Tulse-hill, London.

T. Westhorp, Esq., West India-road, London.

MANAGERS.
John Patton, Jun. (Messrs. John Patton, Jun., and Co.), 5, Newman's-court, Cornhill, E.C.

BANKERS.
Messrs. Barnett, Hoares, Hanbury, and Lloyd, 60 and 62, Lombard-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.
Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, and Co., 6, Old Jewry.

J. McDermid, Esq., 10, Old Jewry-chambers.

BROKER.
Charles Matthey, Esq., 81, Old Broad-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.
Messrs. Hart Brothers, Tibbets, and Co., 14, Moor-gate-street, E.C.

SECRETARY.
Mr. R. Smith, 4, New Broad-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The Directors of this Company, in pursuance of the resolution unanimously passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting, held on the 10th July last, are prepared, on behalf of the Company, to receive applications for £100,000 Debentures, in sums of £100, £500, and £1,000, for seven years from the 1st January, 1880, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, on 1st July and 1st of January.

The Company take power to pay off earlier at £105, on giving six months' notice.

These Debentures are part of an issue limited to £150,000 of which about £50,000 have already been subscribed.

Payment on account of the Debentures will be as follows:—

£20	On Allotment.
£20	1st May, 1880.
£20	1st July, 1880.
£20	1st September, 1880.
£20	1st November, 1880.

The whole amount or any instalment can be paid in advance, less interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

The amount raised by these Debentures will be invested in four new steamers of the highest class, two of iron and two of steel, contracted for before the rise in iron and steel, on favourable terms with eminent builders.

The security for the Debentures will be a floating charge on the whole of the ships, undertakings, and effects of the Company, including its interest in the above-named new steamers. All the vessels are fully insured.

The uncalled capital is £40,000.

The amount now invested in the shipping property held by the Company amounts to £147,000. The interest in the new steamers, at contract price, amounts to £170,000, making the total property £317,000.

Since the Company was established in 1874, the dividends earned and paid have averaged about 8 per cent. per annum.

The Debentures will be made payable to bearer, but can, at the option of the holder, be converted at any time into Registered Debentures. The form of the Debentures can be inspected at the Office of the Solicitors, or of the Company.

Default in the due payment of any instalment will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Scrip certificates to bearer will be issued as soon as possible against Allotment Letters and Bankers' Receipts. The Scrip Certificates will be exchanged for Debentures when fully paid-up.

A quotation for the Company's shares (which are held by 355 shareholders) has been recently granted, and a quotation for the Debentures will also be applied for.

Forms of Application and all further information can be obtained of the Solicitors, the Broker, or at the Office of the Company.

Applications to be made to the Bankers, Broker, or to the Secretary of the Company not later than Tuesday, the 9th March.

London, February 28, 1880.

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CHIEF OFFICE:
63, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON.

BRANCH OFFICE, 60, Charing-cross; And at Oxford-street, corner of Vere-street.

Established 1810.

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Specially low premiums for policies without profits.

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Established July, 1868.

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ARBITRATORS.

C. T. Ritchie, Esq., M.P.; J. D'A. Samuda, Esq., Sir J. Bennett, C.C.; M.P.

E. Davis, Esq., C.C.; Thomas Scrutton, Esq.

£10,000 ready for Immediate ADVANCES on Mortgage, at low rates of interest, with easy redemption.

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FIVE per Cent. on Shares, with annual bonus.

FOUR per Cent. on Deposits. Withdrawn at seven days' notice.

Prospectus and Report of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting, post free on application to

S. MAYES, Manager.

SECOND HALF OF CAPITAL.**HOUSE PROPERTY and INVESTMENT COMPANY (Limited).**

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CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

In 40,000 fully paid-up Shares of £25. For the Purchase and Sale of Productive and Progressive HOUSE PROPERTY, and Improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes on the Self-supporting Principle. Registered March 15, 1876.

CAPITAL ALLOTTED.

FIVE ISSUES, completing 20,000 Shares, amounting to Half Million, at premiums amounting to £40,000.

The SIXTH ISSUE of 4,000 £25 Shares at £5 per Share Premium. Nearly half has already been allotted, the remainder in course of allotment.

Current Rate of Interest on Shares.

SIX AND A QUARTER PER CENT.

Various Estates have been sold at a CONSIDERABLE PROFIT during the current year.

For Third Annual Report, Balance-sheet, Share Application Forms, and other information, apply to

W. H. BASDEN, Secretary.

EXCELSIOR GAS BATH, £5 10s. 0d.

Reflector Cooking Stoves from 10s. 6d. Sole maker G. SHEPHERD, 30, Old Bailey, E.C. Factory, Barrington-road, S.W.

AT the ANNUAL MEETING of the DEPUTIES of PROTESTANT DISSENTERS of the THREE DENOMINATIONS—Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist, appointed to protect their Civil Rights, held the 25th day of February ultimo, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, E.C. Henry Richard, Esq., M.P., in the chair, the following RESOLUTIONS were, amongst others, unanimously passed:—

1. Census of Religious Profession.—That this meeting emphatically protests against the proposal, that at the approaching Decennial Census an inquiry should be made into the religious profession of every inhabitant. The Deputies consider that such an inquiry would be a direct infringement of the principle of religious liberty. In its result, also, it would be most misleading, it being probable that a large number of persons who have no religious belief, and in many cases attend no place of worship, would declare themselves to be members of the Church of England, while many would conscientiously refuse to answer the inquiry.

2. Marriage Law Amendment.—That the Deputies, having learned that the Bill of Mr. Blennerhassett for the Amendment of the Marriage Laws will, amongst other things, provide that Ministers of Nonconformist places of worship may officially register marriages solemnised by them, feel obliged to object to such a proposal as make ministers officials of the State, and also because accuracy of registration can be best secured by maintaining the principles of the existing law.

3. Burial Laws.—That this meeting heartily approves of the course which Mr. Osborne Morgan has adopted in enlarging the scope of his Resolution in reference to the Burial Laws, by making it relate as well to cemeteries as to churchyards. They thank the honourable gentleman for his past persistent efforts to remove all invidious distinctions on the occasion of the burial of the dead, and promise him their fullest support in the future.

4. General Election and Scotch Disestablishment.—That this meeting, while concurring in the opinion that it is of paramount importance that at the approaching General Election a Liberal majority should be returned, strongly urges that the questions which affect Nonconformists should not be ignored. The Deputies especially feel that the Scotch Disestablishment question is one which has now become of practical importance, and deem it to be the duty of all Nonconformists to do their utmost to secure the return of candidates who are prepared for immediate action.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Committee of Deputies for the ensuing year:—

Baynes, W. W., Esq.	Hazell, W., Esq.
Bolton, W. T., Esq.	Higgs, Wm., Esq.
Clapham, John, Esq.	Holborn, Wm., Esq.
Clarke, Joseph, Esq.	Morley, Saml., Esq., M.P.
Dunn, Andrew, Esq.	Peto, Sir C. Norton, Bart.
Eastly, John, Esq.	Rais, John, Esq.
Edwards, William, Esq.	Shephard, Charles, Esq.
Ellington, H. R., Esq.	Sinclair, Robt., Esq.
Forsyth, Robt., Esq.	Spicer, Evan, Esq.
Glover, John, Esq.	Williams, J. Carvell, Esq.
Griffin, Colonel, J. T.	

ALFRED J. SHEPHEARD, Secretary.

No. 32, Finsbury-circus, E.C.

WINTER RESIDENCE—ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT.**CONISHEAD PRIORY.**

HYDROPATHIC MANSION, NEAR ULVERSTON.

Hot, Cold, and Turkish, Sea and Fresh Water Baths.

The prospectus of this Charming Winter Residence may be obtained on